



Juul exec: Never intended electronic cigarette for teens

By MATTHEW PERRONE and RICHARD LARDNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top executive for Juul Labs said that his company never intended its electronic cigarettes to be adopted by underage teenagers, as House lawmakers on Thursday accused the company of fueling the vaping craze among high schoolers.

Co-founder James Monsees testified that Juul developed its blockbuster vaping device and flavor pods for adult smokers who want to stop.

He acknowledged statistics showing "a significant number of underage Americans are using e-cigarettes, including Juul products."

"Juul Labs isn't big tobacco," Monsees told members of a House subcommittee, adding that "combating underage use" is the company's highest priority.

Thursday's hearing marks the first time Juul has been called before Congress, despite growing scrutiny from parents, politicians



NIC-O-TEEN

JUUL Labs co-founder and Chief Product Officer James Monsees testifies before a House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 25, 2019, during a hearing on the youth nicotine epidemic.

Associated Press

and public health advocates.

Federal law bans the sale of e-cigarettes to those un-

der 18. Drawing from some 180,000 documents collected from the company, House Democrats pep-

pered Monsees with questions about the early ads and marketing that they contend led to the current

wave of underage vaping by U.S. teens.

Continued on Page 2

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Juul exec: Never intended electronic cigarette for teens

Continued from Front

"We must trace the origins that led to this epidemic," said Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois, who chairs the economic subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. The Democrat convened two hearings this week after launching an investigation last month into Juul's marketing, technology and business practices. The privately held company has grown into a multibillion-dollar business on the success of its small, discrete vaping device and nicotine pods. Krishnamoorthi questioned Monsees about what he said were similarities between the design of the original Juul device and packaging for Marlboro cigarettes. He cited minutes from a 2016 Juul board meeting that mentioned a settlement with Philip Morris International, which sells Marlboros outside the U.S., to remove triangle and diamond shapes from Juul branding. Monsees said Juul paid "zero dollars" as part of the settlement.

"There was never any intent," to copy Marlboro, Monsees said. "The last thing we wanted was to be confused with any major tobacco company." Last year, Altria, the parent company of Marlboro-maker Philip Morris USA, bought a 35% stake in Juul. During his testimony, Monsees reiterated past steps taken by Juul, including shutting down its Facebook and Instagram pages and pulling several of its flavored pods out of retail stores to keep Juuls out of the hands of teens. Monsees said he understands the negative scrutiny of his company, but assured lawmakers Juul's aim is to "eliminate cigarettes for good." "This is an industry that has done wrong for a truly long period time," Monsees said. "We are changing that from the inside out with products delivered by innovative people and a company that is 100% committed to changing the fabric of this market." Neither Juul nor any vaping product is approved yet to help smokers quit.



House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee chair Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., right, speaks as he questions JUUL Labs co-founder and Chief Product Officer James Monsees during a subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 25, 2019, on the youth nicotine epidemic. Subcommittee ranking member Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., is at left. Associated Press

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Later in the hearing, lawmakers questioned Juul's chief administrative officer, Ashley Gould, about documents they said showed Juul offered \$10,000 to some schools for anti-vaping educational programs. Gould said Juul only gave funding to six schools or youth programs and discontinued the program in 2018 after learning that tobacco companies had funded similar anti-smoking programs decades ago. E-cigarettes typically heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable aerosol. They are largely viewed as less harmful than traditional paper-and-tobacco cigarettes and some adult smokers use them as an alternative source of nicotine. On Wednesday, Stanford University Professor Robert Jackler, an expert in tobacco advertising, testified that Juul's early promotions — including youthful models, colorful advertising and launch parties across the U.S. — mimicked tactics pioneered by cigarette mak-

ers. Jackler said Monsees, a Stanford alumnus, had personally credited the professor's research on tobacco advertising with shaping Juul's marketing in a meeting last year. Monsees told lawmakers the comment was misinterpreted. Instead, he said Juul had learned the "bad actions" of those companies and what "not to do," from Jackler's archive of tobacco advertising. Juul grew out of graduate work by Monsees and co-founder Adam Bowen, both Stanford design students. The company's rise has closely tracked an explosion of underage vaping. Last year, 1 in 5 U.S. high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the last month, according to government survey figures. Juul has become a scourge in U.S. schools with students vaping in restrooms, hallways and even classrooms. Another committee member, Rep. Katie Hill, D-Calif., said that internal Juul documents indicate the

company had at one point sought to aggressively use social media to market its products, with potentially hundreds of social media influencers. Influencers are social media users that have large online followings and established credibility with their audience, according to Hill. She said the company told the subcommittee ahead of the hearing that it used influencers sparingly. Monsees said that he wasn't familiar with the contracts she cited and told Hill the company had tried "a number of different things." The U.S. Food and Drug Administration gained authority to regulate e-cigarettes in 2016, but the agency has repeatedly postponed a deadline for vaping companies to submit their products for health and safety review. Earlier this month, a federal judge sided with public health groups who sued the FDA and ruled that vaping companies must submit their products for review by next May. □

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16 Marines arrested in migrant smuggling investigation

**By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An investigation into Marines accused of helping smuggle migrants into the United States led to the arrest Thursday of 16 of their fellow Marines at California's Camp Pendleton, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border. In a dramatic move aimed at sending a message, authorities made the arrests as the Marines gathered in formation with their battalion.

None of the 16 Marines were involved in helping enforce border security, the Marine Corps said in a news release. They are accused of crimes ranging from migrant smuggling to drug-related offenses.

Officials could not immediately be reached for additional details.

The arrests came weeks after two Marines were arrested by a Border Patrol agent on suspicion of trans-

porting three Mexicans on the promise of money after they crossed illegally into the United States.

The military said the investigation helped authorities identify the 16 Marines arrested at the largest Marine Corps' base on the West Coast, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) from San Diego's border with Mexico. Retired Marine Lt. Col. Gary Barthel called it a "kind of black eye for the Marine Corps" and said it was important the military show criminal behavior will not be tolerated.

"Obviously I think it looks bad whenever you have the military that is helping protect the border and then you've got military people smuggling," said Barthel, an attorney at the Military Law Center in Carlsbad, north of San Diego.

Marines and other U.S. troops were brought in last year to help reinforce the border by installing razor

wire on top of existing barriers, among other things. Troops are barred from arresting migrants.

Border Patrol agents over the years have routinely caught migrants in the country illegally walking onto Camp Pendleton or floating in skiffs off the coast nearby. Authorities said the base, cut by Interstate 5 leading to Los Angeles, sits along a well-traversed route used by migrant smugglers.

Officials from 1st Marine Division worked alongside the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in the investigation that started after the July 3 arrests of two Marines, who were charged in federal court with migrant smuggling. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A U.S. Border Patrol agent stopped Lance Cpl. Byron Darnell Law II and Lance Cpl. David Javier Salazar-Quintero about 7 miles (11 kilometers) north of the bor-



This Nov. 13, 2013 file photo shows the main gate of Camp Pendleton Marine Base at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Associated Press

der after being alerted by other agents that a vehicle similar to theirs was suspected of picking up migrants who came into the country illegally, according to the federal complaint.

Three migrants were found in the backseat of a black BMW driven by Law, investigators say. Both Marines are riflemen assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

Law told the agent that Salazar asked if he was interested in earning \$1,000 picking up an "illegal alien."

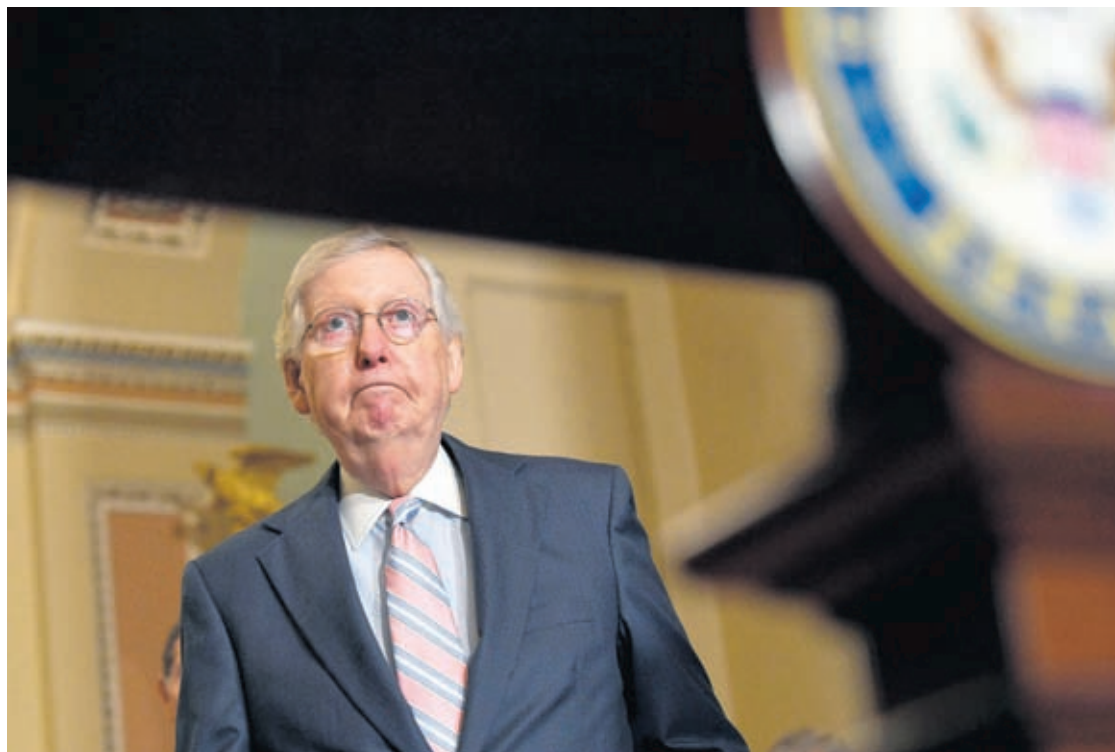
Salazar told authorities that Law introduced him to a man who "recruited" him to help smuggle in migrants, according to court documents. Salazar said he had gone out to pick up migrants on four separate occasions but was never paid. □

Election warnings blare, but action stalls in Congress

By **LISA MASCARO** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller warned that Russian interference is still happening “as we sit here.” State election officials are anxious and underfunded, some running systems with outdated software and scrounging for replacement parts off e-Bay. And on Thursday a report from the Senate Intelligence committee concluded all 50 states were targeted in 2016 and ahead of the 2018 election “top election vulnerabilities remained.” But there’s no help coming from Congress.

It’s a risky calculation heading into 2020, when the stakes will be high for an election that could see record turnout as President Donald Trump runs for a second term. Primary voting is six months away. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Thursday blocked a House-passed bill that would authorize \$775 million to beef up state election systems. GOP leaders made the



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., arrives to speak with reporters following the weekly policy lunches on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

case that the Trump administration has already made great strides in protecting the vote and they say no more funding is needed. The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, called inaction by Congress a “disgrace” and pledged to keep pushing for votes. Mueller’s testimony “should be a wake-

up call,” he said. “Leader McConnell, let me read you that sentence,” Schumer said from the Senate floor, citing Mueller’s testimony Wednesday before the House committees about Russian interference. “They’re doing it as we sit here, and they expect to do it in the next campaign.”

Associated Press

The challenge was underscored Thursday as the Senate Intelligence Committee released the full results of an investigation that found the Russian government directed “extensive activity” against U.S. election systems ahead of the 2016 election. Two years later, ahead of the midterm election, little had changed, as an intelligence assessment reported, “We are aware of a growing volume of malicious activity targeting election infrastructure in 2018.”

The report encourages states to “take urgent steps to replace outdated and vulnerable voting systems.” It said, “More money may be needed.”

The House is pushing other bills targeting fake ads and cyber intrusions and the Senate already unanimously approved one bipartisan measure, which makes interference in elections a violation of immigration law, and another that makes it a federal crime to hack elections systems. But Democrats — and some Republicans — say Congress must do more. The most pressing issue is replacing electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper record of each ballot cast that is verified by the voter and can later be audited.

In 2018, 10 states had more than half of their jurisdictions using machines without a paper trail, which cybersecurity experts have warned are vulnerable to hacking and must be replaced.

An AP analysis in July found that many of the 10,000 election jurisdictions nationwide use old and soon-to-be outdated operating systems to create their ballots, program voting machines, tally votes and report counts. Many systems are running Windows 7, which will reach its end of free Microsoft support for software vulnerabilities on January 14, and it’s unclear who would pay for extended support.

But time may be running out to address concerns in the states before the next election.

Even if Congress were immediately to send funds to states to replace voting equipment, it would be difficult to make substantial upgrades in time for the 2020 elections. It can take months to decide on replacement machines, develop security protocols, train workers and test the equipment. McConnell objected to the House bill, saying it was “not a serious effort” coming from the same side that he said spent the past two years “hyping” Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. “Obviously, it’s very important that we maintain the integrity and security of our elections,” McConnell said Thursday.

It wasn’t the first time McConnell had put the brakes on election security efforts. The Kentucky Republican halted a bipartisan effort ahead of the 2018 election to beef up state election systems. It stalled again this year.

That measure would have required all states to use paper ballots as a backup to electronic systems if they want to receive federal election money for voting equipment. It would also require that all 50 states conduct audits after elections. □

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APNewsBreak: Inspection finds persistent problems at jail

By **MARK GILLISPIE**

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — A state inspection of a troubled county jail in Cleveland in early July found that problems with medical care, sanitation and inmate lockdowns persist months after they were first cited in federal and state inspections, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

Officials from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Bureau of Adult Detention conducted a site visit at the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center on July 3.

The jail is not adequately evaluating and tracking inmate medical care and doesn't maintain a "continuity of care" for inmates returning from hospitals, said a memo written by Bureau of Adult Detention Administrator John Adams and dated July 18.

The memo also said that while sanitation has improved, areas of the jail remain "unclean," including food preparation and tray cleaning areas. Prolonged lockdowns of inmates in their cells continue when large numbers of corrections don't report for work, the memo said.

"The memo shows we are working hard to make improvements in the county jail. We are committed to continuing the progress," Cuyahoga County spokeswoman Mary Louise Madigan said.

The U.S. Marshals Service in November issued a report that said the grossly overcrowded jail was plagued by "inhumane" conditions, abusive behavior by corrections officers and unsanitary conditions, and concluded the lockup was unsafe for both inmates

and staff. Problems with medical and mental health care for inmates also were cited in the report.

The state, after essentially giving the jail a clean bill of health in 2017, inspected the jail shortly after the release of the U.S. Marshals Service report and said the jail was noncompliant in 84 of the state's 135 standards.

Gov. Mike DeWine said June 7 that he had ordered improvements in the state's jail inspection system and an increase in the inspection staff from six to 15 employees "to enable them to conduct inspections on all minimum standards each year" at Ohio's 300 local jails.

The state previously examined essential standards annually and minimum standards once every two years.

The Republican governor said he had ordered monthly compliance monitoring of the Cuyahoga County jail and said "additional legal action" could be taken if the jail fails "to demonstrate significant improvements." An inspection in early June found the jail noncompliant on 66 standards and on 63 standards in July.

DeWine asked for a review of the jail inspection system in March while noting that eight inmates had died at the Cuyahoga County jail last year.

Adams' July memo cited three dates in June when inmates were locked in their cells because of "call offs" by corrections officers. On June 15, for example, 36 corrections officers called off work for the first shift, and another 26 called off on second shift.

Adams wrote that the jail needs to work "collabora-

tively" with MetroHealth Medical Center, the public health system the county pays to provide medical care at the jail.

"These changes are necessary to ensure compliance with the Standards for Jails in Ohio," Adams wrote.

The memo noted that the jail's ability to enforce its contract with MetroHealth for "non-performance" is limited because officials must go through County Executive Armond Budish, which the memo said "adds additional hurdles to ensure that MetroHealth is delivering promised services."

Budish and his administration are the focus of a state and federal corruption probe while the county's former director of correc-



This Feb. 20, 2019 file photo, shows the exterior of the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center in Cleveland.

Associated Press

tions, a former warden and also the subject of a federal civil rights investigation over its treatment of inmates. □



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Calif. skirts Trump, signs mileage deal with 4 automakers

By **TOM KRISHER** and **ELLEN KNICKMEYER**

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Four major automakers have reached a deal with California to toughen standards for gas mileage and greenhouse gas emissions, bypassing the Trump administration's push to relax mileage standards nationwide instead. Ford, BMW, Honda and Volkswagen signed the deal with the California Air Resources Board, the state's air pollution regulator, which had been at odds with the Trump administration for months, in a contest that automakers fear could set up years of confusion and litigation in the industry. California has said it would exercise its powers to set more stringent pollution and mileage standards than the federal government has proposed. The Trump administration reacted strongly to the end run, with Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Michael Abboud calling it a "PR stunt."

"The federal government, not a single state, should set this standard," White House spokesman Judd Deere said. The Trump administration would keep going on its competing effort to relax mileage standards nationwide, Deere said.

The administration has sought to freeze Obama administration standards, keeping fleetwide new-vehicle mileage at 2021 levels of about 30 mpg. The administration says the extra expense to comply with the requirements will raise the price of new cars, making them unaffordable and depriving buyers of new safety technology. Many experts, including former EPA engineers, challenge the administration's argument. The administration also has threatened to challenge California's ability to set its own standards. In a statement Thursday, California regulators said their deal delays by one year the new-vehicle fuel efficiency requirements approved under the Obama administration for model years 2022 through 2025.



In this Dec. 10, 2015, file photo, vehicles make their way westbound on Interstate 80 across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge as seen from Treasure Island in San Francisco.

Associated Press

That means the fleet of new vehicles would have to average around 36 miles per gallon in real-world driving by 2026. The deal also slightly slows the rate of growth in the early years "to provide additional lead time" for the auto industry, the statement said.

The four automakers see the California agreement as "insurance" to provide some certainty to the industry and the state no matter who wins the 2020 presidential elections, according to a person familiar with the talks who asked not to be identified because details of the negotiations haven't been made public. The four automakers represent only about 30% of U.S. new-vehicle sales.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents a dozen automakers in and out of the California deal, said in a statement that the industry still wants nationwide standards with year-over-year mileage increases that fit with what people are now buying, SUVs and trucks.

"Today's announcement of the framework of an agreement by California and certain automakers acknowledges that the MY2022-2025 standards developed by the Obama administration are not attainable and need to be adjusted," said the statement from the alliance.

Alan Baum, a Detroit-area

consultant who does work for the auto industry and environmental groups, said the deal is clearly designed to get the rest of the auto industry on board and to force the Trump administration to the bargaining table with California.

"This really puts California in a much stronger position because this really puts some pressure on the federal government," Baum said. "These four automakers don't want to be out on an island here. They would like their competitors to do this as well."

He said the deal could de-

lay a final rule that's supposed to come from the federal government in August or September, keeping the current standards in place longer. For the automakers, it's not much different from how they were preparing to meet the Obama administration standards, he said.

Under the agreement, fuel economy and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions standards would rise by 3.7% per year starting with the 2022 model year, through 2026, according to the statement from the four automakers. They would

have gone up by 4.7% per year through 2025 under the Obama standards, according to California.

Automakers could get 1 percentage point of the increase by using advanced technology credits such as those for hydrogen fuel cell, plug-in gas-electric hybrids, and battery electric vehicles. And they would get credits for devices that aren't counted in EPA test cycles such as stopping the engine at red lights and re-starting it quickly when the driver wants to go. The process would be streamlined to get credits approved for new technologies.

The automakers also agreed to recognize California's authority to set its own standards, which are followed by at least a dozen other states, and they will not challenge the state's authority, according to the statement.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which draws up federal standards with the EPA, said the government continues to work on a final fuel economy rule that will apply to all automakers. The administration's proposals do not prevent any automaker from designing and building highly fuel-efficient vehicles, the agency said in a statement. □

Aborted embryo suit rests on Alabama 'unborn rights' policy

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — In a case that spotlights Alabama's state policy recognizing "the rights of unborn children," a judge is deciding whether to dismiss a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the father of an aborted embryo against the clinic where his ex-girlfriend obtained an abortion.

WHNT-TV reports Madison County District Judge Chris Comer heard arguments in Ryan Magers' lawsuit during a hearing Wednesday but did not rule.

Magers is serving as representative of the aborted embryo's estate in the lawsuit against the Alabama Women's Center in

Huntsville. A probate judge earlier this year took the unusual step of opening an estate for the aborted embryo, known as "Baby Roe" in court filings, after Magers' attorney cited a newly approved Alabama constitutional amendment saying its state policy to recognize the "rights of unborn children." A lawyer for the clinic told the judge Wednesday that there is no wrongful death because abortion is legal. The clinic has asked the judge to dismiss the case. "The bottom line here is that this is a simple case. They have sued for the wrongful death of an embryo and at the

time that that happened abortion was legal in Alabama and still is," said Sara Tucker, an attorney representing the clinic. Magers and his then-girlfriend were both teenagers when she got pregnant in 2017. The suit says Magers pleaded with the young woman not to have an abortion but she did so anyway. The suit names the clinic where Magers contends his former girlfriend received an abortion-inducing medication when she was six weeks pregnant. Magers' attorney, Brent Helms, said, "there's never been a case like this in the United States of America." □

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ARUBATODAY**SAVE TIME
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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Oregon removes assisted suicide wait for certain patients****By SARAH ZIMMERMAN**
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Legislation allowing certain terminally ill patients to have quicker access to life-ending medications under the state's first-in-the-nation assisted suicide law has been signed into law, Gov. Kate Brown's office announced Wednesday.

The law allows those with 15 days left to live to bypass a 15-day waiting period required under the Death with Dignity Act, something proponents say will reduce bureaucracy and bring relief to gravely ill people.

"This improvement will result in fewer Oregonians suffering needlessly at the end of their lives," said Democrat-

ic Sen. Floyd Prozanski, who helped sponsor the legislation.

Some opponents argued that the move amounted to an unnecessary expansion of the state's physician-assisted suicide law, saying the law removes critical safeguards meant to ensure people are confident in their decision to end their own life.

"I don't want to make it any easier for any individual in any circumstance to take their life prematurely," Republican Rep. Duane Stark said during floor debate last month.

Those seeking life-ending medications had to make a verbal request for physician-assisted suicide, wait

15 days and then make a written request.

They then had to wait an additional 48 hours before obtaining the prescription. Under the new amendment, doctors can make exceptions to the waiting periods if the patient is likely to die before completing them.

"Forcing eligible patients to die suffering unnecessarily while they wait 15 days was not the intention of the Oregon law," said Kim Callinan, CEO of Compassion & Choices, a national non-profit that advocates for the expansion of medical aid in dying.

The number of people who have taken advantage of Oregon's law has been rel-



In this Monday, July 1, 2019 file photo, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks with the media at the Capitol in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press

atively small.

Since it enacted the nation's first physician-assisted suicide law in 1997, nearly 1,500 people died from taking life-ending medications prescribed to them by a physician. In 2018, about 46 per every 10,000 deaths could be attributed to the

state's death with dignity law, according to state data.

After the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Oregon's law in 2006, eight states have since approved physician assisted-suicide. Maine and New Jersey's laws are set to take effect later this year. □

Man admits kidnapping, assaulting 10-year-old girl in 1999**By MARK SCOLFORO**
Associated Press

A health insurance company analyst pleaded guilty Thursday to kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl after DNA evidence and new fingerprint technology helped solve the 1999 crime.

Timothy D. Nelson Jr., 50, entered the plea in the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, federal courthouse and agreed to a deal that will likely result in a 30-year sentence.

Nelson admitted he abducted the girl in Cairnbrook, Pennsylvania, took her to West Virginia and assaulted her before releasing her.

His lawyer, Lyle Dresbold, said Nelson feels remorse and plans to express that when he is sentenced in late August.

"He entered the guilty plea today, in part, to spare the victim and her family any

further trauma," Dresbold said after the plea hearing. "Mr. Nelson has taken responsibility for his actions and is taking this first step in showing contrition and the remorse that he has been feeling for a long time."

FBI agent Robert Jones said at a news conference after the hearing that the child was able to help investigators recover a discarded paper bag and napkins that eventually linked Nelson to the crime.

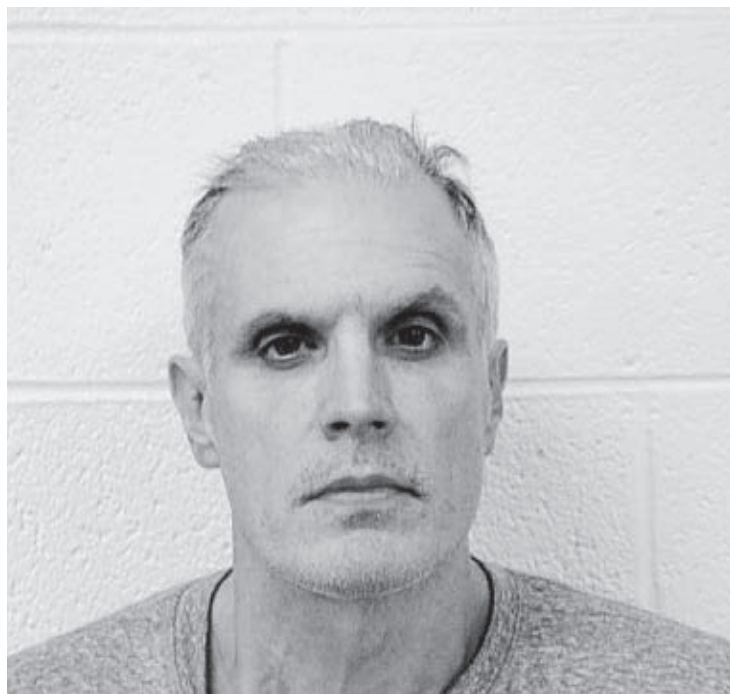
Federal prosecutors told the judge that Nelson, of Cumberland, Maryland, drove past a group of three girls several times before he got out and asked them a question. When the 10-year-old victim responded, he grabbed her, put her in the car and drove away, keeping her on the floor of the passenger seat and pointing a handgun at her head.

When she screamed, Nel-

son struck her in an effort to silence her.

In West Virginia, he forced

also cleaned himself and then threw the bag from the window. Those items



This undated photo provided by the Pennsylvania State Police shows Timothy D. Nelson Jr., 50, of Cumberland, Md.

Associated Press

her to perform a sex act and gave her a napkin and a bag to clean herself. He

eventually helped solve the crime.

After driving her back into

Pennsylvania, Nelson left the child on the roadside, told her to count to 100 and then call her mother from nearby. A passing motorist saw the girl in distress and stopped to help her, summoning police.

For years the DNA and fingerprints did not produce a suspect, but Jones said investigators ran the partial fingerprints through the FBI's Next Generation Identification biometric database last fall, and they matched Nelson's prints.

Jones said Nelson later confessed.

U.S. Attorney Scott Brady said that Nelson is likely to spend the rest of his life in federal prison.

"We brought Timothy Nelson Jr. to justice," Brady said after the hearing. "And through that we were able to bring some measure of closure and finality — and yes, freedom — to this courageous young woman." □

Showdown looms as new British PM wants to redo Brexit deal

By JILL LAWLESS
DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — On his first full day in office, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the European Union on Thursday to rethink its refusal to renegotiate the Brexit deal, setting himself on a twin-track collision course — with the bloc and his own lawmakers — over his vow to leave the EU by Oct. 31.

Johnson pledged to deliver Brexit and a “broader and bolder future,” as he addressed a rowdy session of Parliament.

He was heckled loudly by an opposition determined to thwart him, with Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn dismissing Johnson’s “arm-waving bluster.” The EU’s Brexit chief called Johnson’s speech “combative” and his demands unacceptable.

Johnson, who took office on Wednesday after winning a Conservative Party leadership contest, has less than 100 days to make good on his promise to deliver Brexit by Oct. 31. And Thursday’s session of Parlia-



Britain’s newly appointed Prime Minister Boris Johnson, left, holds his first Cabinet meeting, with Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid and Secretary for Work and Pensions Amber Rudd, right, at Downing Street in London, Thursday July 25, 2019.

ment was the last before a six-week summer break.

Rejecting the Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated by his predecessor Theresa May, Johnson insisted that while he wanted a deal, it could only happen if the EU budged, especially on an insurance policy for the Irish border

that has been rejected by U.K. lawmakers.

“I hope that the EU will be equally ready and that they will rethink their current refusal to make any changes to the Withdrawal Agreement,” he told Parliament during the 2½-hour session. “If they do not, we will, of course, have to

leave — the U.K. — without an agreement.”

Johnson later spoke by phone to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who once again repeated the bloc’s insistence that it will not renegotiate the agreement on departure terms that it struck with May.

Juncker told Johnson that “the withdrawal agreement is the best and only agreement possible” but the EU was ready “to analyze any ideas put forward by the United Kingdom, providing they are compatible with the withdrawal agreement.”

The exchange was disclosed by an EU official who asked not to be identified because of the confidentiality of the phone call. Chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said Johnson’s “rather combative” speech was part of the British leader’s attempt “to heap pressure on the unity” of the bloc.

In a message to the 27 remaining member states, he said the EU must “be ready for all scenarios.”

Without a divorce deal, Britain faces a chaotic Brexit that economists warn would disrupt trade by imposing tariffs and customs checks between Britain and the bloc. They say that could send the value of the

pound plummeting and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Nonetheless Johnson has vowed to complete Brexit and silence “the doubters, the doomsters, the gloomsters” who believe it can’t be done.

But details remain scarce about how Johnson’s government would alleviate the economic shock if Britain crashed out of the EU’s huge free-trading bloc, ripping up decades of agreements regulating everything from aviation to drugs to telecommunications.

He said he was ready to talk to EU leaders “whenever they are ready to do so,” and also promised to “turbo-charge” planning for a no-deal exit, with millions more allocated to a public information campaign for citizens and businesses.

He also repeated his threat to withhold the exit payment of 39 billion pounds (\$49 billion) that May agreed to if there is no deal.

Since taking office Wednesday, Johnson has replaced many of May’s ministers with his own hand-picked Cabinet of loyal Brexiteers, and it met for the first time on Thursday.

Many of them worked with Johnson in the 2016 referendum campaign to leave the EU, as did much of Johnson’s new backroom staff.

Despite the new lineup, Johnson faces the same problems that bedeviled May: heading a government without a parliamentary majority and with most lawmakers opposed to leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

Lawmakers who oppose a no-deal Brexit — including some of the Conservative ministers in May’s government who were swept away by Johnson — are vowing to put up a fight when Parliament returns from its break in September.

“This House will stop the prime minister,” said Scottish National Party lawmaker Ian Blackford, who branded a no-deal Brexit “economic madness.” □

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Tunisian president Essebsi dies at 92; interim leader put in

By **BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**
Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, the North African country's first democratically elected leader and a symbol of the generation of Tunisians who shook off French rule in the 1950s, died Thursday. He was 92. In a hasty ceremony hours after Essebsi died at a military hospital in Tunis, the leader of parliament took over as interim president. However, Essebsi's death while still in office could lead to new power struggles in the only country to emerge from the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings with a functioning democracy and relative stability.

The government declared seven days of mourning, as condolences poured in from several Arab countries and the United Nations. A funeral is planned for Saturday. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Essebsi was "a pivotal figure" in Tunisia's history who "was instrumental in successfully steering the country through its historic and peaceful transition to democracy."

"President Essebsi was a Tunisian pioneer, an Arab and African trailblazer, and a global leader," the United Nations chief said in a statement.

Heir to Tunisia's founding father, Essebsi emerged from retirement at age 88 to win office in 2014 in the wake of the country's Arab Spring revolt. He presented his centrist Nida Tounes movement as a bulwark against rising Islamic funda-



In this Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018 file photo Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi gestures during a press conference in Tunis. Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, the country's first democratically elected leader, has died at 92, his office announced Thursday July 25, 2019.

mentalism and against the political chaos that rocked Tunisia after the "jasmine revolution" overthrew a longtime dictator and unleashed similar protests for democracy throughout the region.

Essebsi was seen as a unifying figure, but was ultimately unable to bring prosperity or lasting calm to a country beset by economic crises and fending off sporadic deadly terror attacks.

Under the Tunisian Constitution, parliament president Mohamed Ennaceur should serve as interim president for 45 to 90 days while a new election is organized.

In a brief speech after he took the oath of office, Ennaceur called on Tun-

sians "to strengthen your unity and solidarity so that the country can pursue its march toward progress."

However, questions about the legitimacy of Ennaceur assuming the presidency could arise because the Constitutional Court was supposed to confirm the office was vacant. But the court itself doesn't exist yet because lawmakers disagree over who its members should be.

Tunisia remains a haven of political openness and relative peace compared to the countries led by strongmen elsewhere in the Arab world and to the chaos reigning in neighboring Libya.

As Lebanon's prime minister and Jordan's royal court

declared multiple days of mourning over Essebsi's death, Syria's government was notably silent. Demonstrations that broke out in Syria in 2011, in part inspired by Tunisia, have turned into a bloody civil war.

Most of Essebsi's political career came well before the Arab Spring uprisings, and he outlived most of his peers in Tunisia's independence generation.

In April, he announced he wouldn't run in a November election, saying a younger person should lead the country instead.

Born Nov. 29, 1926, when Tunisia was a French protectorate, Essebsi entered politics in the 1940s and trained as a lawyer in Paris. But his name is most

associated with Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba, who built up the country and educated its people yet brooked little opposition. Essebsi proudly claimed to be Bourguiba's disciple, and from 1965 to 1986, he held several senior roles including defense minister, foreign minister and interior minister.

As a supporter of openness toward more political pluralism, Essebsi occasionally clashed with Bourguiba, who was known as Tunisia's "supreme fighter."

After Bourguiba was overthrown in a bloodless coup by Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 1987, Essebsi left politics to be a lawyer and author, including writing a biography of Bourguiba. He was little heard from but never fully renounced his political ambitions. Ben Ali's fall in the Arab Spring of 2011 led to a difficult democratic transition for Tunisians. By the time Essebsi founded his own party in 2012 — already deep into his 80s — many were ready for a familiar face. Essebsi often claimed with pride that it was the overwhelming support of Tunisian women that propelled him to power in 2014. Women in Tunisia won relatively broad rights under Bourguiba decades ago and many feared an Islamist wave would threaten those freedoms.

However, not having a majority in parliament, Essebsi had to make an alliance with Islamist party Ennahdha, which caused discontent in his party and cost him a good part of his electorate. □

Former PM Barak, others join forces before Israeli elections

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A trio of forces on the Israeli left — including former Prime Minister Ehud Barak — united on Thursday ahead of the country's upcoming elections, looking to pose a powerful contrast to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative ruling Likud party.

The newly formed "Democratic Union" said in a joint statement it would be made up of Barak's "Democratic Israel" faction, the dovish Meretz party and senior Labor Party official Stav Shaffir.

With just a week left to present the final lists for the September balloting, all sides were concerned they might not get enough votes by themselves to cross the electoral threshold.

The move comes amid a flurry of machinations ahead of the "do-over" election in September, after Netanyahu failed to form a parliamentary majority following his victory in April's vote. To avoid giving his opponents a chance to



Ehud Barak, left, Tamar Zandberg, and Stav Shaffir, announce their joint faction "The Democratic Camp" for the upcoming elections in Israel, in Tel Aviv, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Associated Press

build an alternative government, he dissolved parliament and forced an unprecedented new election campaign.

Netanyahu's various rivals have been seeking to seize on the rare opportunity to unseat him by putting their own differences aside. Barak, who in 1999 became prime minister by becoming the only person to date to defeat Netanyahu in a head-on showdown, dramatically came out of retirement last month

with the stated ambition of toppling Netanyahu again by helping opposition forces create a large enough bloc to unseat Likud.

However, his new faction has so far failed to make much of a splash in the polls. The former military chief's main contribution seemed to be getting under the skin of Netanyahu and his family. Though Barak is headlining the maneuver, the 77-year-old will not lead the new list and does not appear to be a

candidate to replace Netanyahu himself.

The joint list will be headed by Nitzan Horowitz, the newly elected, openly gay leader of Meretz. Shaffir, a rising star in Labor, bolted from the venerable party to be second on the new list, while Barak will be placed in the tenth slot.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv with Shaffir and Barak, Horowitz said the party aimed to "create significant political power the likes of which the left hasn't

seen in years." The three leaders all spoke of "regime change" and ousting Netanyahu from office.

With Labor announcing a joint run focused on social and economic issues with the small Gesher party, "Democratic Israel" looks to have seized the mantle of peacemaking with the Palestinians and is poised to reintroduce an agenda that has long been missing from the Israeli political discourse.

Meretz lawmaker Tamar Zandberg, a former party leader, called the new alliance a "dramatic move to strengthen the left" and a "significant boost to justice and equality as an alternative to the corrupt and messianic right."

The move appeared to be facilitated by Barak's apology earlier this week for the killing of 13 Arab protesters by Israeli police in 2000 while he was prime minister. Meretz relies heavily on support among Israel's Arab minority and one of their prominent Arab lawmakers had called on Barak to apologize. □



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Afghan capital hit by 3 bombings, at least 10 killed



A damaged bicycle is seen at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Three bombings struck the Afghan capital on Thursday, killing at least 10 people including five women and one child, officials said. The attacks occurred while the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine

Gen. Joseph Dunford, was visiting the capital to meet with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, according to a statement from the president's office.

The morning's first attack in Kabul was carried out by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle who blew himself

up in front of a bus carrying Ministry of Mines employees, said Nasrat Rahim, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. The coalition told The Associated Press that its forces were not involved in the Kabul explosions.

The third blast was a smaller magnetic explosive device left near the scene of the bus attack, which caused no deaths, the Interior Ministry spokesman said.

At least 41 people were also wounded in the attacks in the capital, said Wahidullah Mayar, a spokesman for country's health ministry.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks. The insurgents control around half the country and have continued to launch daily assaults, mainly targeting security forces, even while holding negotiations with the U.S. aimed at ending the 18-year war. □



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North Korea fires new type of short-range ballistic missiles

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea fired a new type of short-range ballistic missile in two launches into the sea Thursday, South Korean officials said. They were North Korea's first weapons launches in more than two months and appeared to be a pressuring tactic as Pyongyang and Washington struggle to restart nuclear negotiations. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired from near the eastern coastal town of Wonsan and flew about 430 kilometers (270 miles) and 690 kilometers (430 miles) respectively before landing off the country's east coast.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff described both missiles as short-range but didn't elaborate. But after a national security council meeting later Thursday, South Korea's presidential Blue House said the weapons North Korea launched were assessed as "a new kind of short-range ballistic missiles."

North Korea is banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions from engaging in any launch using ballistic technology. So North Korea could face international condemnation over the latest launches. But it's still unlikely for the North, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, to be hit with fresh punitive measures because the U.N. council has typically imposed new sanctions only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches, not short-range ballistic launches.

A South Korean defense official, requesting anonymity because of department rules, said that an initial analysis showed both missiles were fired from mobile



People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

launchers and flew at a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles).

The North is unhappy over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills that it says are preparation for an invasion. The missile tests may be meant as a warning to Washington.

They came as many in the United States were focused on testimony before Congress by Robert Mueller, the former special counsel, about his two-year probe into Russian election interference. A day earlier, U.S. national security adviser John Bolton left Seoul after agreeing with South Korean officials to work closely to achieve North Korea's denuclearization.

"North Korea appears to be thinking its diplomacy with the U.S. isn't proceeding in a way that they want. So they've fired missiles to get the table to turn in their favor," said analyst Kim Dae-young at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

But North Korea doesn't appear to be pulling away from U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at curbing its nucle-

ar program, analysts say. The relatively short distance travelled by the missiles suggests the launches were not intended as a major provocation, unlike a test of a long-range missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

North Korea has been urging the U.S. and South Korea to scrap their summertime military drills. Last week, the North said it may lift its 20-month suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests in response to the drills. Seoul said Wednesday North Korea was refusing to accept its offer to send 50,000 tons of rice through an international agency to protest the drills.

Some experts say North Korea is trying to get an upper hand ahead of a possible resumption of talks. Pyongyang wants widespread sanctions relief so it can revive its dilapidated economy. U.S. officials demand North Korea first take significant steps toward disarmament before they will relinquish the leverage provided by the sanctions.

A senior U.S. official said

the Trump administration was aware of the reported launches. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide a response, said the administration had no further comment.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyunsoo urged Pyongyang to stop acts that are "not helpful to efforts to ease military tensions on the Korean Peninsula."

"If they were ballistic missiles, they violate the U.N. resolutions, and I find it extremely regrettable," Japan's Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters in Tokyo.

China, the North's last major ally and biggest aid provider, said both Washington and Pyongyang should restart their nuclear diplomacy as soon as possible.

"All parties concerned should cherish the hard-won opportunity for dialogue and the easing of tensions, express goodwill, meet each other halfway and jointly make positive efforts to promote denuclearization," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokes-

woman Hua Chunying. It was the first missile launch since Seoul said North Korea fired three short-range missiles off its east coast in early May. At the time, many experts said those missiles strongly resembled the Russian-designed Iskander, a short-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile that has been in the Russian arsenal for more than a decade.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said the latest missiles could be Scud-C ballistic missiles or KN-23 surface-to-surface missiles, a North Korean version of the Iskander.

During a third summit at the Korean border late last month, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to resume nuclear negotiations that had been deadlocked since their second summit in Vietnam in February. It ended in disagreement over U.S.-led sanctions.

On Tuesday, North Korean state media said Kim inspected a newly built submarine and ordered officials to further bolster the country's military capabilities. The Korean Central News Agency said the submarine's operational deployment "is near at hand." After analyzing North Korea-dispatched photos of the submarine, experts said it likely has three or more launch tubes for missiles. South Korean government documents say North Korea has about 70 submarines. Most have only torpedo, not missile launch tubes, except for a test platform with a single launch tube the North has used when it fired ballistic missiles in recent years, according to Kim Dae-young, the analyst. □

US sanctions Maduro's stepsons for alleged food corruption

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— The U.S. on Thursday imposed sanctions on a Colombian businessman and three stepsons of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for allegedly forming part of a network that stole hundreds of millions in dollars from food import contracts at a time of widespread hunger in the crisis-wracked South American nation.

The network targeted by Thursday's actions was allegedly run by Alex Saab, a businessman who has been in the radar of U.S. authorities for two years after amassing a large number of contracts with Maduro's socialist government.

The U.S. Treasury Department alleges that Saab utilized a network of shell companies spanning the globe — the UAE, Turkey, Hong Kong, Panama and Mexico — to hide huge profits from no-bid contracts obtained through bribes.

"Saab engaged with Maduro insiders to run a wide-scale corruption network they callously used to ex-



In this June 21, 2019 file photo, first lady Cilia Flores stands behind her husband Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro during a press conference, at Miraflores Presidential Palace, in Caracas, Venezuela.

plot Venezuela's starving population," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "They use food as a form of social control, to reward political supporters and punish opponents, all the while pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars through a number of fraudulent schemes."

Some of Saab's contracts were allegedly obtained by paying bribes to Yoswal, Yosser and Walter Flores, the children of first lady Cilia Flores from a previous relationship. The three men, commonly known as Los Chamos — Venezuelan slang for "the kids" — are also under investigation by

Associated Press prosecutors in Miami for allegedly forming part of an scheme to siphon \$1.2 billion from Venezuela's state-owned oil company, two people familiar with the U.S. investigation told The Associated Press.

U.S. officials believe Saab's rise began a decade ago after signing an agree-

ment to build social housing for the Venezuelan government. In 2011, he appeared on Venezuelan state television alongside Maduro, the late President Hugo Chavez and then-Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos.

From there, he and his partner, fellow Colombian Alvaro Pulido, entered the food business through a Hong Kong-based company, Group Grand Ltd., which was among the 13 entities sanctioned Thursday. Despite having no known track record in the food business and a rudimentary webpage, the company quickly amassed hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of contracts to import food on behalf of the government's hallmark social program. The imported food was used to stock so-called CLAP boxes, a Spanish acronym for Local Committees for Supply and Production, which are distributed to Venezuelans as part of Maduro's response to an "economic war" he says is being waged by the U.S. and opponents seeking to oust him from power. □

Puerto Rico's incoming governor faces crisis, wary populace

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The woman set to become Puerto Rico's next governor has been criticized for her reluctance to confront problems in Gov. Ricardo Rosselló's administration during her nearly two years as the territory's top law enforcement official.

That criticism is likely to complicate Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez's ability to complete Rosselló's term in the face of widespread public anger toward the departing governor and some of his male aides over a leaked online chat in which they mocked their constituents and made insulting remarks about women.

Vázquez, a 59-year-old former prosecutor, has limited experience in leading government agencies, let



In this Jan. 16, 2018 file photo, then Puerto Rico Justice Secretary Wanda Vazquez answers reporters' questions, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

alone an entire administration.

Early Thursday, she issued a statement shortly after Rosselló announced his resignation.

"I understand he made the right decision, for the good of both his family and for Puerto Rico," she said. "We

will be working together to have a responsible and transparent transition process."

Before she was sworn in as justice secretary in January 2017, Vázquez worked as a district attorney for two decades at the island's justice department and in 2010

was appointed director of the Office for Women's Rights.

After she became secretary, she was criticized by some for not being aggressive enough in pursuing corruption investigations involving members of her pro-statehood New Progressive Party, of which Rosselló also is a member. Critics also said Vázquez, who once handled domestic and sexual abuse cases as a prosecutor, did not prioritize gender violence cases as secretary.

Nearly two years after she became justice secretary, Vázquez became embroiled in a high-profile court case that turned some Puerto Ricans against her.

Last November, the Office of Government Ethics said it had received a complaint about possible ethical violations involving Vázquez,

who was accused of intervening in a case involving a suspect charged with stealing government property at a home where Vázquez's daughter lived.

Vázquez appeared in court to face charges that included two violations of a local government ethics law. In December, a judge found there was no evidence to arrest her.

Vázquez becomes Puerto Rico's second female governor. Under the island's constitution, the secretary of state is first in line to take over if the governor resigns. But Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín, one of the 12 men who took part in the chat, resigned July 13 in the uproar over the leak.

Shortly after the 889-page chat was leaked, Vázquez issued a statement stating she was "profoundly affected and saddened" by the remarks. □

LOCAL



International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

ORANJESTAD- Today marks the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015 and celebrated each year on July 26. With this, UNESCO aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem" and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses. The most popular mangrove sites in Aruba would definitely be considered SPAANS LAGOEN & MAN-GEL HALTO in Pos Chikito.

Mangroves are rare, spectacular and prolific ecosystems on the boundary between land and sea. These extra ordinary ecosystems contribute to the wellbeing, food security, and protection of coastal communities worldwide. They support a rich biodiversity and provide a valuable nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans. Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea lev-

els and erosion. Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks, sequestering vast amounts of carbon. Yet mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. Current estimates indicate that mangrove coverage has been divided by two in the past 40 years. UNESCO is engaged deeply in supporting the conservation of mangroves, while advancing the sustainable development of their local communities. The inclusion of mangroves in Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks contributes to improving the knowledge, management and conservation of mangrove ecosystems throughout the world.

Uses of mangroves

Mangroves have been highly managed ecosystems since the dawn of time. Until the advent of synthetic lines the roots of the red mangrove (*Rhizophora* sp) were routinely



used to strengthen natural fiber lines used in fishing. Traditionally they were used much more intensively than today for example in boat building and basket

weaving as well as to produce charcoal.

mangroves are fascinating ecosystems.

Born survivors

In fact looking beyond the mud and the mosquitoes

Continued on Page 14



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International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Continued from Page 13

They form dense, often impenetrable forests, choked with tangled prop roots and bathed in mud. Mangroves have evolved the amazing ability to thrive under extremely harsh conditions. Not only can they tolerate high levels of salt but they are also able to cope with more or less constantly waterlogged soil. Needless to say there are not many of them, only 40 species have been recorded worldwide. Red mangroves (*Rhizophora* sp) survive by breathing through lenticels (pores) in their prop roots whilst black mangroves (*Avecennia* sp) send up a field of pneumatophores (aerial roots) around the trunk of the tree through which they breathe. All species of mangrove extrude salt through their leaves, which is why the leaves glisten in sunlight. Living as



they do, at the interface between land and water, mangroves provide a valuable service in protecting land from the buffeting power of the sea.

Refugia

In addition to resident plants and animals like killifish, tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*),

snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), and mangrove snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*), mangroves provide a safe haven for nearly every kind of reef fish and many invertebrates at some time during their life. Snorkelling through mangrove is like visiting the reef in miniature. The young of cardinalfish

(Apogonidae) snapper (Lutjanidae), grouper (Serranidae), wrasse (Labridae), pufferfish (Tetraodontidae), boxfish (Ostraciidae), butterflyfish (Chaetodontidae), damselfish (Pomacentridae), scorpionfish (Scorpaenidae) and grunts (Haemulidae) all can be found milling around mangroves, darting in and out of their rooty home. Some species such as the commercially important spiny lobster (*Panulirus* sp) use the mangrove to as spawning grounds. In all between 60 and 80 different species of fish can routinely be found in mangroves.

Prop roots

Mangrove prop roots form veritable oases of life. The roots themselves are smothered in encrusting life including mangrove oysters and barnacles, mussels and anemones, sponges, tunicates, stinging hydroids and worms.

Crabs are a ubiquitous feature of mangrove ecosystems. Grapsid crabs live underwater emerging at low water to feast on the mangrove forest floor. They are herbivores gobbling up detritus, leaves and seedlings. Fiddler crabs also forage on the mud but they are deposit feeders scooping up sediment and sifting through it for edible particles. The males have a huge, brightly coloured claw which is useless for feeding but vital when defending a territory or attracting a mate.

Importance of Mangroves:

- Mangroves provide an important breeding site for many species of migratory and non-migratory bird species
- Mangroves support a large range of wintering and foraging wetland birds
- Mangroves are an impor-

tant nursery site for many aquatic species such as fish and crustaceans (i.e. crabs, shrimp, lobster)

- Mangroves provide harvestable products such as food, including fish and crustaceans

- Mangroves provide regulating functions such as carbon sequestration and water management: mangroves capture and store different forms of carbon responsible for climate change and slow the passage of water, collecting silt running off the land towards the sea

- Mangroves protect our coasts from erosion by waves and wind

- Mangroves provide for tourism, recreation and hiking

For this reason the Spanish Lagoon was designated a Ramsar site – a wetland site of international importance - in 1980 and brought under the protection of the National Park in 2017. Spanish Lagoon alone has a high biodiversity with 190 animal and 64 plant species recorded to date and provides ecosystem services that are important for the economic and social wellbeing of the island.

StimAruba, the organization that devotes herself to nature conservation and nature protection, would like to invite you to a walk to explore the 4 different types of mangroves called 'Mangel' in Papiamentu. This will take place today at 4:30pm starting at the ruins in Spanish Lagoon 'Spaans Lagoon'.

It is of utmost importance that more mangrove areas of Aruba are brought under protection. Please appreciate our precious mangroves and help us to conserve our unique island nature! □



Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

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Honoring of loyal and friendly visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 consecutive years or more.

One honoree was Brenden F. McCarthy who has been visiting the island since he was one years old! The other honorees were the lovely Scott and Marsha Milich who have been visiting the island since year 1986 consecutively! It was truly an amazing celebration to witness.

These people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificates to the honorees, and handed over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Harbour House Aruba: Top-Notch Concept of Affordable Luxury with Amazing Water Views



ORANJESTAD — The condominiums at Harbour House Aruba are located right on the harbor of Oranjestad with breathtaking view of the ocean, the port and the city in one. Besides you get a luxurious, high-quality condominiums for a real affordable price. A not to be missed opportunity for a retirement purchase or investment where you will get the best bang for your buck.

Marinelda Cartaya, Sales Manager, is happy to mention that more than 50 % of the condos are sold already. "The demand for studios and one bedroom apartments was so big that we created extra studios and only six are left for sale at this moment. We offer two and three bedroom apartments even some corner units where you have amazing 180° views and all around balcony." This creates a divine moment for a morning coffee and see the city awake on one side and the calmness of the ocean on the other. There is a fantastic stand-alone four bedroom 6,674 square feet penthouse on the top of the building with 360° views and complete privacy selling at a very reasonable price. The other side of the top floor houses the ocean-view fitness center and lounge area/solarium with spas allowing you the me-time you need.



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The urban-like living takes place on a privileged spot in Oranjestad with an open-floor concept. There will be a boulevard in front of the harbor where people can stroll and enjoy the gallery of stores, restaurants and art. "This pedestrian walk-way is already approved by the authorities just awaiting final documentation and we have already been contacted by interested tenants that wish to establish their restaurant or stores here", says Marinelda. Construction progress is moving forward rapidly. Works on the structure of the 2nd level pool with harbor views started which will soon change the whole look of the building's interior. "Levels 2, 3 and 4 are ready with tiles and walls and a model apartment was finalized allowing potential buyers to experience the look and feel of the condos. Harbour House is in full steam ahead and completion is planned for the 2nd quarter of 2020.

Connecting Two Worlds

"On our website we upload pictures every 3-4 weeks showing the construction progress to keep our customers informed. Buyers that live abroad cannot easily stop by to check their investment and with these updates online we at least provide them with the most up to date information. She informs that the clientele is formed by 60 % foreigners and 40 % locals, making Harbour House a great connection between two worlds.

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For more information:
<https://harbourhousearuba.com>

SPORTS



Kawhi Leonard, left, and Paul George pose with their new team jerseys during a press conference in Los Angeles, Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Associated Press

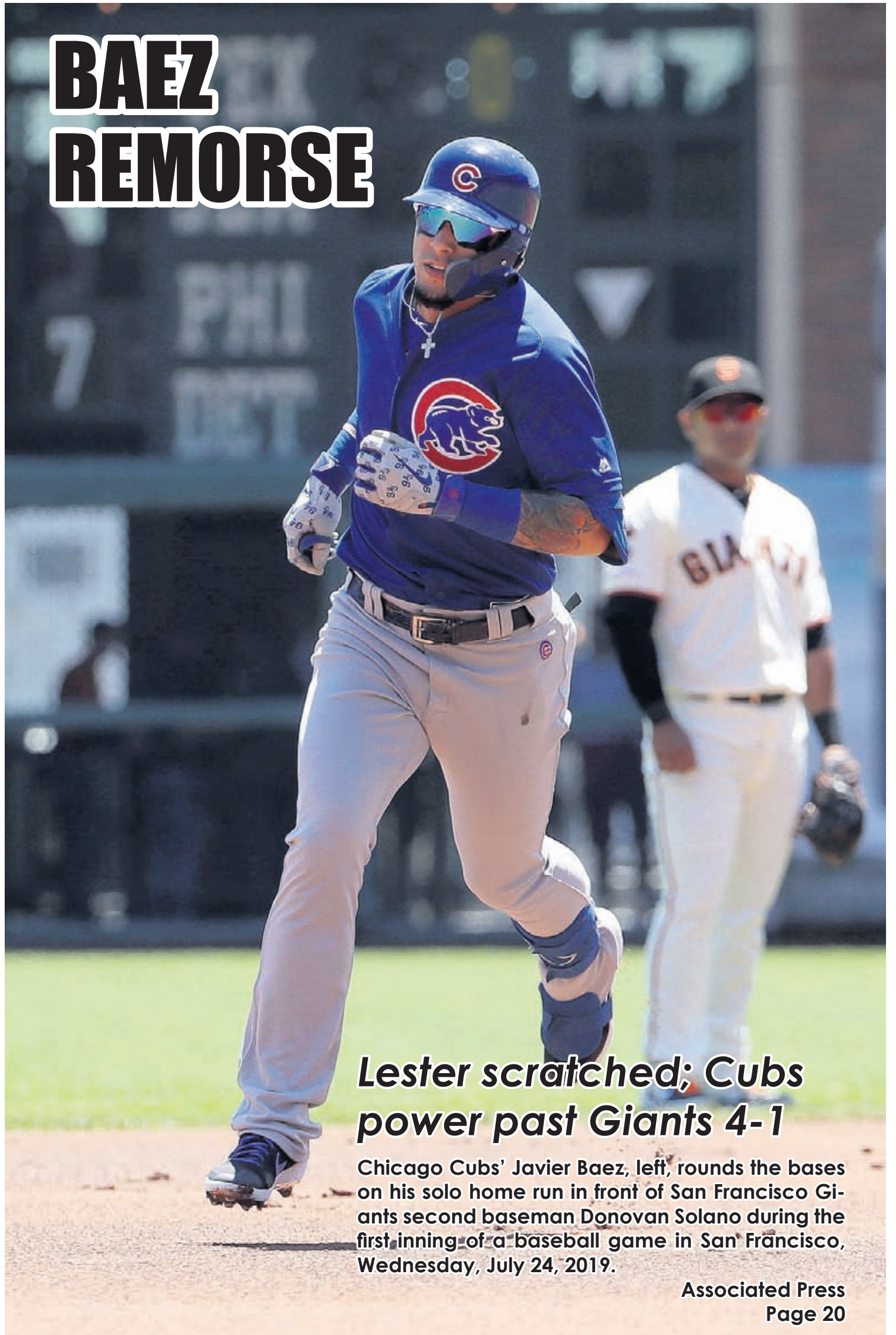
Kawhi Leonard, Paul George want to make history for L.A.Clippers

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kawhi Leonard and Paul George laughed and cheered along with the crowd when the multibillionaire owner of the Los Angeles Clippers waved his arms, stomped his feet and screamed his new players' praises in a cracking voice. Leonard and George are already loving the Clippers' unique vibe, and they see their future together as limitless. Nearly three weeks after these native Southern California superstars shook up the NBA by maneuvering to play together in LA, the Clippers' new dynamic duo finally made its first public appearance Wednesday in a south Los Angeles community center gym. "I think we've got something special," said Leonard, the two-time NBA Finals MVP coming off a championship season in Toronto. "We can make history here. We've got the right team to do it."

Continued on Page 23

BAEZ REMORSE



Lester scratched; Cubs power past Giants 4-1

Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez, left, rounds the bases on his solo home run in front of San Francisco Giants second baseman Donovan Solano during the first inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Associated Press
Page 20

Rahm matches tour low with 62 to open WGC event in Memphis

By **TERESA M. WALKER**

AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —

Travelling from Northern Ireland to Tennessee has left everyone who played four rounds at the British Open fighting jet lag.

Jon Rahm's putter helped him recover pretty quickly. Rahm matched the lowest round of his PGA Tour career with an 8-under 62 on Thursday at the FedEx St. Jude Invitational, taking advantage of nearly perfect greens to open a three-stroke lead in the World Golf Championships event. "I was pretty exhausted Monday and Tuesday, and that's why I decided not to do much on the golf course and just make sure mentally I was going to be ready to compete," Rahm said.

He spent about an hour on the putting green Wednesday. He didn't step foot on the front nine, his back nine, until he made the turn, and he had five birdies on that side.

Rahm rolled in five putts of at least 16 feet for birdies in the bogey-free opening round at TPC Southwind. The Spaniard finished with a 7-footer to save par. He also opened with 62s last year in his CareerBuilder Challenge victory and in January in the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.



Jon Rahm, of Spain, looks over his approach to the 9th green with his caddie during the first round of the World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational Thursday, July 25, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

"That's what made it so comforting because I knew, especially with the greens being this pure, if I started a ball online I was going to have a chance," Rahm said.

Bubba Watson, Hideki Matsuyama, Patrick Cantlay, Cameron Smith and Shugo Imahira shot 65. Henrik Stenson and Ian Poulter were among six players at 66 on a day featuring near per-

fect conditions with temperatures in the mid-80s lacking the humidity Memphis usually melts through in late July.

Justin Thomas, the winner of the WGC event last year in its final time at Firestone in Ohio, had a 68. Dustin Johnson, the St. Jude Classic winner on this course last year, and Rory McIlroy, who missed the cut by a stroke last week in the Brit-

Associated Press
ish Open, each shot 69.

Johnson was 3 over at the turn, and the only man in the field to win on this course — with victories in 2012 and 2018 — switched up his putting grip while over the ball on No. 1. He moved his left hand below his right and worked his way back under par with birdies on five birdies and one bogey.

"It couldn't get any worse,

so I figured I had to try something," Johnson said. "I hit great shots, I was always in good positions. I should have shot 3 or 4 under on the front, I shoot 3 over. It was, yeah, not very good." Matsuyama was the first to 5 under after a 21-foot birdie putt on the par-3 11th with the island green. Then Matsuyama hit his tee shot on the par-4 12th left of the cart path and two-putted for bogey. That's when Rahm, a three-time winner at the age of 24, got going. Even though he had only played nine practice holes Wednesday, Rahm had very little trouble on the 7,237-yard course.

The Spaniard who played at Arizona State rolled in an 18-footer on the 18th, then made the turn with back-to-back putts of 18 feet for three consecutive birdies. He hit his tee shot on the par-4 sixth into the weeds left of the fairway and hit his second 110 yards to 2 feet to go to 6 under.

His putter came through again with a 16-footer on No. 7, then he got his eighth birdie of the round with a yet another long putt — just shy of 16 feet on the par-3 eight. He saved par with a 7-footer on his final hole.

"I tried to put a stress or a little emphasis on being rested, and it paid off today," Rahm said. "Obviously, I have three more days to go and hopefully the battery lasts."

This is the best round yet at a World Golf Championships event for Rahm, who won his third PGA Tour title earlier this year teaming with Ryan Palmer at the Zurich Classic in New Orleans. He also tied for third at the U.S. Open in June and tied for 11th last week at the British Open. Rahm tied for 17th in this event last year in Ohio. Divots: Jordan Spieth was a stroke off the lead at 4 under through 11, and he finished with birdies on two of his final three holes. But he also had a pair of triple bogeys after hitting tee shots into the water on the 12th and 15th. He finished with a 70. □

4 Americans lead Senior British Open

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP) —

A quartet of Americans — Wes Short Jr., Scott Dunlap, Scott Parel and Ken Duke — topped the Senior British Open leaderboard on Thursday, together with England's Paul Broadhurst, when first-round play was suspended due to fading light.

The leaders were a stroke ahead after a 3-under 67 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. Parel will need to play a hole and Duke two holes on Friday to complete their first round.

Short made an eagle on the par-5 11th, Broadhurst did the same on the par-4 13th, while Dunlap com-

pleted a bogey-free round. Weather caused about a 3-hour delay during the day with play suspended twice because of lightning. Former Ryder Cup captains Darren Clarke and Colin Montgomerie were tied for sixth with Americans Woody Austin and Tom Gillis, and Sweden's Magnus P. Atlevi.

Northern Ireland's Clarke finished the round with four birdies and two bogeys just a week after he missed the cut at the British Open, which he won in 2011.

"I played nicely," Clarke said. "I hit a couple of poor shots at the start of the round but after that I think

I only missed one green. My ball-striking was pretty good today.

I had the trajectory under control, you need to do that. Even with a little breeze here at Lytham, if you're off, you're going to find bunkers and get in trouble."

Scotland's Montgomerie shot a bogey-free round.

"There was a fair breeze blowing, 10 or 12 miles an hour makes a big difference in links golf when the fairways are so hard," said Montgomerie, a three-time senior major champion. "But it's a good golf course. We forgot how good this course was."

Two weeks after winning the Bridgestone Senior Players Championship for his first PGA Tour Champions title, Retief Goosen of South Africa opened with a 70, as did American Tom Lehman who won The Open here in 1996.

Defending champion Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain had three bogeys and two birdies for a 1-over 71.

In his 18th appearance in the event, Tom Watson (74) took a double-bogey at the par-5 7th.

Amputee golfer Geoffrey Nicholas of Australia, who qualified for the event, is at the bottom with 88. □

5-time All-Star Tulowitzki retires after leg injuries

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Troy Tulowitzki, a five-time All-Star with the Colorado Rockies who has missed most of the past two seasons with leg injuries, announced his retirement on Thursday, more than three months after he played in his last game for the New York Yankees.

"For as long as I can remember, my dream was to compete at the highest level as a Major League Baseball player . to wear a big league uniform and play hard for my teammates and the fans," he said in a statement issued by the Yankees before a series against Boston. "I will forever be grateful for every day that I've had to live out my dream. It has been an absolute honor."

Tulowitzki was NL Rookie of the Year runner-up in 2007, when he helped the Rockies reach the World Series for the only time in franchise history. He finished in the top 10 of the NL MVP voting three straight years from 2009-11; in all, he received MVP votes in six seasons. He was traded to Toronto in the middle of 2015 and hit .254 with 24 homers and 79 RBIs the next year, his last full season in the majors. He spent most of 2017 on the disabled list with and ankle injuries, and then missed all of last season with following April 2018 surgery on both heels. The Yankees signed him in the offseason, and he won the shortstop job in spring training while starter Didi Gregorius opened the season on the injured list following Tommy John surgery. But Tulowitzki lasted just five games before going on the IL himself, straining his left calf on April 3.

"Even though injuries cut him short a little bit, it was a great career," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "What I'll remember is obviously a great player and a guy that played shortstop, a great shortstop, but played it in such a unique way and with a flair. ... He looked at home out there playing shortstop."

Tulowitzki finished with a

.290 average, 225 homers and 780 RBIs in 13 seasons with Colorado (2006-15), Toronto (2015-17) and the Yankees. He is one of three shortstops in major league history to with at least 20 home runs and a .290 average in six different seasons; the others are Alex Rodriguez (seven) and Nomar Garciaparra (six).

He wore No. 2 in honor of Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter. "I look forward to continuing my involvement in the game that I love . instructing and helping young players to achieve their goals and dreams," he wrote. "I'm saying goodbye to Major League Baseball, but I will never say goodbye to the game I love. Thanks again to all of you!" □



In this Saturday, March 30, 2019 photo, New York Yankees' Troy Tulowitzki is congratulated by teammates after hitting a solo home run against the Baltimore Orioles during the ninth inning of a baseball game in New York.

Associated Press

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Báez, Bryant power Cubs past Giants 4-1; Lester scratched

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Javier Báez homered in the first inning, Kris Bryant and Albert Almora Jr. also went deep, and Chicago beat San Francisco after starter Jon Lester was scratched with an illness.

Báez hit his 25th homer and Bryant his 21st to help Chicago avoid a three-game sweep. The Cubs bounced back from a 5-4, 13-inning loss Tuesday night to give manager Joe Maddon his 442nd win with Chicago, tying Joe McCarthy for fifth in franchise history.

Bryant left in the fifth inning because of soreness in his right knee.

Kyle Ryan (3-1), the second of six pitchers used by the Cubs in place of Lester, retired five batters. Craig Kimbrel allowed two singles in the ninth but got Brandon Belt to fly out for his seventh save.

Earlier in the day, the Cubs optioned shortstop Addison Russell to Triple-A Iowa about two months after Russell completed a 40-game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. The move made room for catcher Willson Contreras to return from the injured list.

The Cubs lead in the NL Central was down to a half-game before tagging San Francisco starter Tyler Beede (3-4) for three home runs in the first four innings.

BREWERS 5, REDS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ryan Braun and Keston Hiura homered, Yasmani Grandal hit a go-ahead single and Josh Hader made a lights-out relief appearance to lift Milwaukee over Cincinnati to avoid a three-game sweep and end a five-game skid against Cincinnati.

Josh VanMeter hit his second homer and Joey Votto and Scooter Gennett had RBI hits to help Cincinnati build a 4-2 lead against starter Jhoulys Chacin. Braun kept Milwaukee close with a two-run shot in the first, his 15th homer of the season, and the Brewers rallied with Grandal's two-run hit in the fifth.

Matt Albers (5-3) got one out for the win, and Freddy Peralta got his first save. Reds right-hander Lucas

chances this year. Rendon's drive off Carlos Estevez (1-1) was the difference in the opener, a

each hit two-run homers in the second while the Cardinals batted around against starter Jordan Lyles (5-7). St.

tended his on-base streak to 29 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

PADRES 7, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Fernando Tatis Jr. got three hits and San Diego beat Noah Syndergaard and New York for its third win in 11 games since the All-Star break.

San Diego took advantage of two errors by left fielder Dominic Smith and sent the Mets to their fourth loss in five games.

Dinelson Lamet made his fourth start since returning from Tommy John surgery, allowing two runs in four innings while striking out six.

Matt Strahm (4-7) entered in the fifth and struck out four over two perfect innings. Craig Stammen got into and out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh before Andrew Munoz and Luis Perdomo tossed a hitless inning apiece.

The Padres scored three times in third, helped by a pair of one-out walks by Syndergaard (7-5) and two misplays by Smith with two outs.

ANGELS 3, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kole Calhoun had a homer and two doubles while driving in two runs in his second straight big game at Dodger Stadium, and the Angels swept the Freeway Series for the first time in franchise history with a win over the Dodgers.

Mike Trout drove in a run and scored another in the fourth straight victory overall for the Angels, who took two from Dodgers in Anaheim last month and two more in Chavez Ravine to earn their first sweep of this local rivalry series since interleague play began in 1997.

Justin Turner homered for the Dodgers. Cody Bellinger was ejected by home plate umpire Dan Iassogna after arguing two called strikes in the eighth inning. Ross Stripling (4-4) pitched five innings of three-hit ball for the Dodgers, giving up two runs before leaving with a stiff neck.

Jaime Barria (4-3) yielded three hits and two walks over five innings for the Angels. □



Chicago Cubs' Jason Heyward, right, slides safely into third base next to San Francisco Giants' Brandon Crawford during the sixth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Sims (1-1) gave up five runs on three hits in 4 2/3 innings, including the homers by Braun and Hiura.

NATIONALS 3, ROCKIES 2, 1st GAME

NATIONALS 2, ROCKIES 0, 2ND GAME

WASHINGTON (AP) — Patrick Corbin pitched six shutout innings for his first victory in nearly a month, and Washington Nationals completed a day-night doubleheader sweep of Colorado.

Washington won for the 23rd time in its last 32 home games and improved to 36-15 overall since May 24, the best record in the majors in that span.

The Nationals also posted their fourth straight doubleheader sweep dating to last season.

Colorado has dropped nine of its last 10 and 16 of 19.

In the first game, Anthony Rendon homered on the first pitch of the seventh inning to lift Washington.

Corbin (8-5) left the bases loaded in the first, but allowed just one runner to reach scoring position in his final five innings. He struck out seven.

Sean Doolittle handled the ninth for his second save of the day and his 23rd in 27

makeup of Monday's postponement. Adam Eaton also hit a solo shot for the Nationals.

Wander Suero (3-5) worked a scoreless seventh for the win.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ORIOLES 2

PHOENIX (AP) — Carson Kelly hit a three-run homer, Taylor Clarke pitched six effective innings and Arizona beat Baltimore.

Arizona closed out the series win with Kelly's homer off John Means (8-6) in the fourth inning, a bounce-back performance by Clarke (3-3) and a little late-inning drama.

Arizona's Yoshihisa Hirano and Archie Bradley worked out of bases-loaded jams in the seventh and eighth innings. Greg Holland started the ninth, but was visited by Arizona's trainer after a walk, then was removed by manager Torey Lovullo following another walk. Yoan Lopez got the final three outs for his first career save.

CARDINALS 14, PIRATES 8

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Paul DeJong hit a career-high three home runs, including one during a nine-run second inning, and St. Louis routed Pittsburgh.

DeJong, Andrew Knizner and Paul Goldschmidt

Louis also had five doubles for a total of eight extra-base hits in the inning, tying a major league record.

St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright (7-7) used 105 pitches to get through five innings and gave up four runs, five hits and four walks while striking out five.

Pirates reliever Keone Kela made his return from the injured list and a two-game suspension for an unspecified violation of his contract by working one scoreless inning. Pirates position players Jose Osuna and Jacob Stallings pitched the final three innings.

Lyles was charged with eight runs, five earned, over 1 2/3 innings.

ROYALS 2, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Brad Keller allowed four hits in seven innings and added a single for his first career RBI in his Georgia homecoming, and Kansas City beat Julio Teheran and Atlanta.

Keller (7-9) won his fourth straight decision as the Royals swept the two-game series.

Teheran (5-7) allowed four hits with two runs, none earned, in six innings.

Ian Kennedy pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save. Ronald Acuña Jr.'s infield hit in the third inning ex-

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Rays beat Red Sox 3-2 as Boston files protest over lineup

By The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

Charlie Morton struck out 11 over seven innings and the Tampa Bay Rays avoided a three-game sweep by beating David Price and Boston 3-2 in a game that the Red Sox protested on Wednesday.

Confusion reigned in the top of the eighth when a series of defensive changes involving reliever Adam Kolarek prompted Boston manager Alex Cora to protest the game due to the placement of subs into the Rays lineup after the designated hitter was removed. Kolarek replaced Morton and retired pinch-hitter Sam Travis on a pop fly. The left-hander then shifted to first base when Rays manager Kevin Cash brought in reliever Chaz Roe, who got a fly ball from Mookie Betts. After Kolarek then returned to the mound and Nate Lowe entered to play first base, Cora met with the umpires, which prompted around a 15-minute stoppage as the umpires discussed the matter.

After the protest was made and the game resumed, Kolarek got a first-pitch grounder from Rafael Devers.

An unhappy Cora again talked with the umpires after the third out, which delayed the start of the bottom on the eighth.

Morton (12-3) allowed two runs and five hits in lowering his AL-best ERA from 2.61 to 2.60. Emilio Pagán pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Price (7-4) went six innings, giving up three runs, four

hits and two walks while striking out eight.

YANKEES 10, TWINS 7

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Didi Gregorius drove in three runs with two of New York's nine extra-base hits in a win over Minnesota.

Aaron Hicks, Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnación each hit solo home runs for the Yankees, who outscored the Twins 30-27 to win this three-game series. Twins starter Jake Odorizzi (11-5) finished four innings, with 10 hits, nine runs and two walks allowed.

Gregorius hit an RBI double to ignite a four-run second. Mike Tauchman added a two-run triple before the inning was over. Gregorius got three hits.

Eddie Rosario, Marwin Gonzalez and Nelson Cruz each homered for the Twins.

Nestor Cortes Jr. (4-0) picked up the victory after being recalled from Triple-A. Aroldis Chapman pitched a hitless ninth for his 26th save.

ASTROS 4, ATHLETICS 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve and George Springer both hit two-run homers to back up another solid start by Justin Verlander and give Houston a win over Oakland.

Houston bounced back after Tuesday's 4-3 loss in 11 innings snapped a six-game winning streak and improved to 9-2 against the Athletics this season.

Verlander (13-4) allowed two singles and one run, which was unearned, while striking out 11 in six innings for his third straight win.

Roberto Osuna allowed two hits and a run in the



Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora yells as he talks to the umpiring crew during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Wednesday, July 24, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ninth before striking out Chris Herrmann for his 23rd save.

Oakland starter Chris Bassitt (7-5) yielded five hits and four runs in six innings for the loss after winning his previous two starts.

PHILLIES 4, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Vince Velasquez pitched impressively into the sixth inning and Philadelphia beat Detroit to finish a quick two-game sweep.

J.T. Realmuto and Nick Williams homered for Philadelphia, which has won five of six.

Bryce Harper had the day off for the Phillies, but they didn't need much offense. Velasquez (3-5) allowed four hits and two walks in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out nine.

Zimmermann (0-8) allowed four runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings. Detroit is 8-35 since the start of June.

MARINERS 5, RANGERS 3

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Mike Leake outpitched Mike Minor in what could be the final start for each before the upcoming trade deadline, Daniel Vogelbach hit a pair of solo home runs, and Seattle beat Texas.

Leake and Minor (8-6) have both been the subject of trade rumors — Minor more than Leake — leading up to next week's trade deadline. But it was Leake with the better performance in his first start since taking a perfect game into the ninth inning last Friday against the Angels. Leake (9-8) threw seven innings, his only mistake giving up a two-out, two-strike home run to Rougned Odor in the sixth inning.

Anthony Bass worked a perfect eighth in relief of Leake and Roenis Elias pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

INDIANS 4, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — Shane Bieber pitched a one-hitter,

allowing only a double by Eric Sogard in the seventh inning, and Cleveland beat Toronto.

The Indians improved to 14-4 in July. They are 30-12 since June 4, the best record in the majors over that span.

Bieber (10-3) struck out 10 and walked one in his second career complete game.

Greg Allen had three hits and an RBI and José Ramírez had two hits and scored a run.

Marcus Stroman (6-11) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. The loss was Stroman's first since June 20 at Texas, ending a streak of five unbeaten starts.

MARLINS 2, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Rookie Zac Gallen pitched seven innings of two-hit ball for his first major league win and César Puello hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning as Miami won its second straight game, beating Chicago.

Puello launched his fourth homer deep to left on the first pitch from Reynaldo López, making a winner out of Gallen (1-2) in his sixth start since joining the Marlins rotation on June 20.

The 23-year-old Gallen struck out nine, walked one and hit two batters in his longest outing to date.

Sergio Romo worked around two singles in the ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Reynaldo López (5-9) allowed four hits and struck out 10 in eight innings, matching the longest outing of his career. □

Ledecky returns but U.S. falls to Australia in relay at worlds

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

GWANGJU, South Korea

(AP) — The Americans got ailing Katie Ledecky back. They just couldn't overcome a world record by the Australians.

Ledecky returned after two days out of the pool while being sick to swim in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay. She rallied the U.S. to the lead on her second leg, but it wasn't enough to defend the title from 2017.

Australia won in 7 minutes, 41.50 seconds at the world championships on Thursday.

Ariarne Titmus, Madison Wilson, Brianna Throssell and Emma McKeon took down the old mark of 7:42.08 set by China at the 2009 worlds in Rome during the height of the rubber suit era.

The United States took silver in 7:41.87, also going under China's old mark. Canada earned bronze.

It was still a big night at the pool for the U.S. team.

The Americans medaled in all five finals, with Caeleb Dressel and Olivia Smoliga winning golds.

After swimming her four-lap leg, Ledecky sat down in a chair behind the blocks. She got up to cheer on Katie McLaughlin during the anchor leg.

Ledecky hadn't competed since preliminaries on Monday. The following day she withdrew from the 200 free heats and the 1,500 free final because of symptoms that included dehydration and vomiting.

"We don't know exactly what caused this all," she said. "I wouldn't have pulled out if it wasn't seri-

ous or if I wasn't concerned and scared and worried about my health."

In the middle of a sleepless night, Ledecky's phone pinged with a text from Michael Phelps. The retired 23-time Olympic gold medalist heard about her illness half a world away and was checking in.

"That meant a lot," Ledecky said. "That gave me a little bit (extra)."

Her meet had gotten off to a rough start when she was upset by Titmus in the 400 free on the first night.

This time, Simone Manuel led off against the 18-year-old Aussie, with Titmus taking it out under world-record pace on the opening lap.

Ledecky put the U.S. in front before handing it off to Melanie Margalis, who led after 600 meters. That's when McLaughlin chased against McKeon, who put the Aussies right back in front for good.

"Just touching the wall and seeing the three others celebrate, it made me so excited," Titmus said. "I wasn't thinking about a world record, that was the key."

Ledecky's lone remaining individual event is the 800 free, with prelims on Friday. "That went a lot better than I expected, so I'd say 95% sure that I'll swim tomorrow," she said.

Watching from the stands was Lilly King, who was disqualified from the morning heats of the 200 breaststroke and lost an appeal to be reinstated.

The American was penalized for not touching the wall with both hands in



Australia's women's 4x200m freestyle relay team celebrate after wining the final at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Associated Press

a simultaneous motion in the first turn of the four-lap race.

It was a big blow for King, the outspoken doping critic aiming for a sweep of the breaststroke titles in Gwangju. She already won the 100 over Russian rival Yulia Efimova, who advanced to the 200 final as the fastest qualifier.

Dressel won swimming's glamour event, the 100 free, for his third gold and fourth medal overall.

"It hurt really bad to be honest," he said. "You don't always get that magical feeling every night but you've just got to shut the brain off and go."

Dressel touched in 46.96 seconds, the only man to dip under 47 seconds in the final. He was only 0.05 seconds off the 10-year-old world record of 46.91 set by Brazil's Cesar Cielo.

"It took 100% effort and I had someone right there on my tail for me to race,"

Dressel said. "I kind of shut off thinking about the race so that helped a lot and having Kyle right there."

Olympic champion Kyle Chalmers of Australia settled for silver in 47.08. Vladislav Grinev of Russia took bronze in 47.82.

Dressel tied for quickest off the starting block and held off a challenge from Chalmers in the closing meters to defend the world title he won in 2017.

Dressel hopped on the lane rope, tossing his head back and his legs out in front of him in celebration.

Dressel's other golds came in the 50 butterfly, a non-Olympic event, and the 4x100 free relay. He took silver in the mixed 4x100 medley relay.

The men's 200 individual medley title went to Daiya Seto of Japan. He touched in 1:56.14.

Jeremy Desplanches of Switzerland took silver. Chase Kalisz, the 2017

champion, earned bronze, ending the Americans' streak of winning at eight consecutive worlds.

In the women's 200 butterfly, Boglarka Kapas of Hungary won in 2:06.78. U.S. teammates Hali Flickinger and Katie Drabot took silver and bronze, respectively, after coming in as the top two fastest qualifiers.

Smoliga won the women's 50 backstroke, a non-Olympic event.

She took control from Lane 2 after her more heralded teammate, Kathleen Baker, had the fastest qualifying time. Smoliga clocked 27.33 seconds. Baker faded to sixth.

In the semifinals of the men's 200 breaststroke, Matthew Wilson of Australia equaled the world record of 2:06.67. His time matched the mark set by Ippei Watanabe of Japan in January 2017. Watanabe finished third in the same heat. □



Tampa Bay Rays starter Blake Snell pitches against the Chicago White Sox, July 21, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Rays' Snell to undergo arthroscopic surgery on left elbow

By **FRED GOODALL**
AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

If the Tampa Bay Rays are going to hang in the AL playoff race, they'll have to do it without reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell.

The 26-year-old left-hander was placed on the 10-day injured list Thursday and is expected to be sidelined until at least September due to arthroscopic surgery to remove loose bodies from his pitching elbow. The Rays, who trailed

Oakland by one game for the second AL wild card spot entering play Thursday, said team orthopedic surgeon Dr. Koco Eaton will operate on Snell next Monday. The team anticipates the pitcher will be ready to return in September.

"With the team we have, I know they're going to ball out. I'm not worried about them," said Snell, who became the second Cy Young winner in franchise history last season, when he led the major leagues with 21 wins. □

Daring Alaphilippe 'unplugged brain' to cling to Tour yellow

By JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

SAINT-MICHEL-DE-MAURIE, France (AP) —

With the Alps spread like giant teeth in front of him and rivals speeding away, seeking to steal the precious yellow jersey off his shoulders, Julian Alaphilippe switched off the part of the brain that stops normal people from taking death-defying risks. Because the French rider is no normal person.

And downward he plunged, flying through hairpin bends on tires barely wider than his thumb. The lunar-like landscape of giant slopes of barren scree became a blur as he hit top speeds of nearly 90 kph (around 55 mph).

"It was a day of folly," Alaphilippe said.

"I unplugged my brain and I was on the limit on each bend," he said. "I did a crazy descent, where I took risks. I wanted to save my jersey." Job done.

With one big Alpine stage completed and just two more to go, Alaphilippe is still in yellow and one step closer to delivering a first Tour de France title since 1985 to his country, crossing fingers, toes and everything else that he makes it through the mountains to Paris on Sunday still in the lead.

"We're all dreaming of

that. Even I'm starting to imagine it," he said.

Continuing to contribute more than anyone to making this the most exciting Tour in decades, the French rider recovered from a mini-wilt on a lung-burning ascent to 2,642 meters (8,668 feet) above sea level on the Galibier pass and then rode like a fury downhill on the other side as if his jersey depended on it. Which it did.

With a decisive, well-placed attack on the slopes of the Galibier — the last of three climbs to above 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) on Stage 18 — Colombian rider Egan Bernal got away from Alaphilippe and ate into his lead.

A slow descent or, worse, a fall from Alaphilippe on the treacherous bends could have seen Bernal do even greater damage to his lead or perhaps erase it entirely. But Alaphilippe is like a dog with a bone when it comes to that iconic shirt. He has now worn it for 13 stages at this Tour, the most by any French rider at a single edition since Bernard Hinault held it for 17 days in winning the race for a fifth time in 1985.

The upside for rivals trying to wrench it from his jaws is that the last two Alpine stages to the ski stations of Tignes and Val Thorens



Colombia's Nairo Quintana celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 208 kilometers (130 miles) with start in Embrun and finish in Valloire, France, Thursday, July 25,

Associated Press

both finish with punishing ascents, meaning there'll be no downhill for Alaphilippe to recover on, as he did Thursday, if he again cracks going uphill.

Bernal and others are banking on it.

Bernal's reward for speeding away from Alaphilippe on the grind to the top of the Galibier was a jump from fifth to second in the overall standings. Having started the day 2 minutes, 2 seconds behind Alaphilippe, Bernal is now just 90 seconds behind him,

breathing down his neck and making an already thrilling Tour only more uncertain in its outcome after more than 3,000 kilometers (1,850 miles) of racing through Belgium and France.

"It's very good for the morale. But Julian demonstrated once again that he is very strong," Bernal said. "Everything is possible. I'm in the mix but to win the Tour is difficult."

Bernal's Ineos teammate, defending champion Geraint Thomas, tried to make

it a one-two punch on the Galibier by also attacking on the last hairpins leading to the top, lined by thick, cheering crowds.

But Thomas couldn't make his offensive stick. Alaphilippe caught him again on the downhill to the finish. Thomas is still 1:35 behind Alaphilippe, as he was at the start of Stage 18, but slipped back to third overall behind Bernal.

Thomas suggested the stage simply hadn't been ridden hard enough to make Alaphilippe crack. □

L.A. Clippers

Continued from Page 17

In explaining their decision to team up with the Clippers, Leonard and George both mentioned the importance of playing near their friends and family. Both were eager to join a team they grew up watching intently from their hometowns in the far-flung LA suburbs during the Clippers' leaner years.

But Leonard and George seemed to be most impressed by this steady, cerebral franchise's supporting cast and leadership — everyone from complementary players Patrick Beverley and Lou Williams to front-office architect

Jerry West and coach Doc Rivers.

West and Ballmer structured their entire franchise specifically to attract elite talent this summer, and Leonard sees the Clippers as fertile ground to grow another champion quickly. "It's an opportunity for us to just build our own, you know what I mean?" Leonard said.

"To make history. They haven't been to a Finals. They haven't won a Finals. That was something big and exciting for me."

While Leonard joined the Clippers as a free agent, George got here through a trade with Oklahoma City. The All-NBA first-teamer de-



Kawhi Leonard, center, and Paul George, second right, holding their new team jerseys, pose with Los Angeles Clippers President of Basketball Operations Lawrence Frank, left, head coach Doc Rivers, second left, and team chairman Steve Ballmer during a press conference in Los Angeles, Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Associated Press

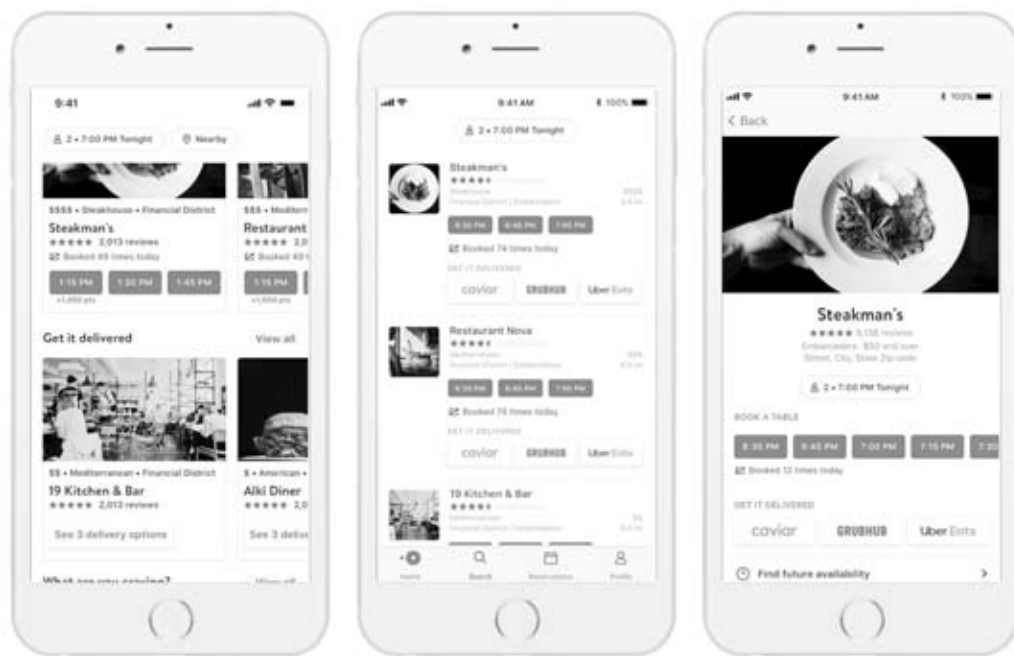
scribed his departure from the Thunder as "a mutual thing between the both of us that the time was up" in Oklahoma City.

"I want to be a part

of something special," George said. "I want to help build something special, and this is surreal to be home and do it for a team that I grew up with,

and wanted to be a part of ever since they missed out on me in the draft. But that's another story. That wasn't on Steve's time, so it's cool."

The Clippers' long-standing reputation as a miserable franchise has receded annually during their current run of eight consecutive winning seasons. The Donald Sterling era's flaws have been wholly erased since Ballmer bought the team seven years ago and trusted Rivers and West to run it. For all of their recent success with the likes of Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and Tobias Harris, the Clippers still haven't reached a Western Conference final or stolen much of the local spotlight from the 16-time champion Lakers. □



This undated product image provided by OpenTable shows the new delivery option for diners on OpenTable's app. The restaurant reservation company said Wednesday, July 24, 2019, that it's adding food delivery to keep up with customer demand.

Associated Press

Dining reservation app OpenTable moves into delivery

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

OpenTable is getting into the food delivery business. The world's biggest online restaurant reservation service — which was founded 21 years ago — has been watching warily as more and more diners opt for delivery. Between May 2018 and May 2019, U.S. restaurant visits were flat at 23.8 billion, but deliveries rose 3% to 2 billion, according to NPD Group, a market research company. So OpenTable decided to partner with three delivery companies — Caviar, GrubHub and Uber Eats — to offer that service through its app. "We want OpenTable to be the go-to dining app for every meal occasion," said Steve Hafner, who leads OpenTable and Kayak, an airline fare search engine. Both companies are owned by travel conglomerate Booking Holdings.

When OpenTable's updated site launches this week, it will give diners a delivery option for 8,000 restaurants in 90 U.S. cities. If they select delivery, users will be directed to the restaurant's preferred service to complete the transaction. If a restaurant works with more than one delivery company, each option will be shown. Eventually, OpenTable wants to post estimat-

ed delivery times and costs for each service as well. Hafner said OpenTable decided to add a delivery option about nine months. Partnering was the easiest and fastest way to get into the business, Hafner said. OpenTable didn't want to operate its own fleet in what's already become a booming sector.

According to Technomic, the top five food delivery companies in the U.S. had \$13.5 billion in sales between May 2018 and May 2019. OpenTable had to get into delivery because it's the only part of the restaurant business that's growing, said David Portalatin, a vice president and food analyst at NPD.

Restaurants, investors and customers are subsidizing delivery companies for now, Portalatin said. But to stand on their own, they'll need significant scale.

OpenTable — which says it seats 123 million diners each month — offered delivery companies access to a huge customer base.

"All these companies are in a chase for growth and they want to be where the consumers are," Hafner said. Hafner said the delivery function will make it easier for diners, who may use multiple delivery apps but don't always know which companies work

with which restaurants. OpenTable chose its three partners because they have the biggest reach, Hafner said. Eventually, the service will expand to more of the 51,000 restaurants OpenTable works with. OpenTable is active in 20 countries, including Australia and Japan.

GrubHub says the partnership is another way for diners to discover delivery. It also gives them an option to try a restaurant's food even if a reservation isn't available, the company said. GrubHub said it's not concerned about OpenTable potentially posting its fees alongside competitors. "We support any efforts to help consumers save money on delivery," the company said in a statement.

Dan Simons, who runs seven restaurants as the co-owner and founder of Maryland-based Farmers Restaurant Group, said delivery was irrelevant six years ago. Now, it's the fastest growing part of his business, accounting for between 4-10% of his sales. Simons said more than half his reservations already come through OpenTable. The new system will help him advertise his delivery option. Simons already works with Caviar and GrubHub as well as DoorDash. □



In this Oct. 3, 2018, file photo the Intel logo appears on a screen at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

Apple buys Intel's smartphone modem division for \$1 billion

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is paying Intel \$1 billion for the chip maker's smartphone modem division in a deal driven by the upcoming transition to the next generation of wireless technology.

The agreement announced Thursday comes three months after Apple ended a long-running dispute with one of Intel's rivals, Qualcomm.

That ensured Apple would have a pipeline of chips it needs for future iPhones to work on ultrafast wireless networks known as 5G.

The Apple-Qualcomm truce prompted Intel to abandon its attempts to make chips for 5G modems, effectively putting that part of its business up for grabs.

Once the sale is completed later this year Apple will be picking up about 2,200 Intel employees and 17,000 wireless technology patents. Barring any complications, the deal is expected to close sometime between October and December.

Apple's purchase of Intel's smartphone modem patents and other technology could bolster its attempt to build its own line 5G chips and lessen its dependence on Qualcomm. The Cupertino, California, has hammered out a licensing agreement with Qualcomm that carries through April 2025, with an option to extend for an additional two years after that.

Qualcomm is a pivotal supplier in the rollout of 5G, particularly in the U.S. That's because President Donald Trump's administration has blacklisted another key 5G supplier, Huawei, as part of its trade war with China.

So far, 5G connections are only available in a few cities in the U.S., but they are expected to become more prevalent by next year. The faster networks will enable consumers with 5G devices to download movies in a matter of seconds and access other streaming services more quickly.

Apple isn't expected to release an iPhone that works on 5G networks until September 2020, putting it behind rivals such as Huawei and Samsung, which already make handsets that work with the faster wireless technology.

"This is a clear 'doubling down' on 5G which remains at the centerpiece of the company's smartphone future," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said of Apple's deal with Intel.

The sale is a residue of Intel's inability to catch up with Qualcomm in the business of making chips for smartphone modems. Intel spent the past decade trying to make inroads in that market, with its big move coming in 2011 when it bought Infineon Technologies' smartphone modem division for \$1.4 billion. □

Is your debt 'good' or 'bad'? It depends

By SEAN PYLES

NerdWallet

Associated Press

Are student loans good debt that can open the door to a career or an insurmountable burden? Is all credit card debt a sign of reckless spending, or can it be a smart way to cover an expense? In general, no form of debt is inherently "good" or "bad." What makes it good or bad is how it fits into your overall financial picture.

Good debt is manageable within your budget and can help you achieve your goals. On the flip side, bad debt is unaffordable and can overwhelm your finances.

Ask yourself these questions to determine if you're dealing with good or bad debt. Then see how you can manage it.

WHAT LED TO THE DEBT?

The reason you took on debt can help you determine whether it's helpful or harmful.

"Any debt that is taken on because people don't have any kind of choice means they are starting out in a place of disadvantage," says Ida Rademacher, a vice president of nonprofit think tank Aspen Institute. "That can create a spiral that can prevent people from being resilient."

Conversely, Rademacher says, "the more helpful forms of debt can help



In this June 4, 2019, photo two people walk along the water in the early morning sunrise near downtown Miami in Key Biscayne, Fla.

people to become more resilient." Student loans, for example, may enable a career that offers a high salary, making you more financially sound.

Think about whether you incurred the debt:

TO ACHIEVE A LONG-TERM GOAL: Student loans and auto loans can fit in this category. These debts can help you move ahead in life, so long as you don't take on too much.

OUT OF CONVENIENCE: These are debts you incur to make other aspects of your life easier, such as when you have a big one-time expense and don't want to deplete your sav-

ings. They can be benign if they're helping you manage your overall financial picture.

DUE TO AN EMERGENCY: Desperation debt can be dangerous. A need for cash in a hurry can leave you with limited options and result in high interest costs.

BOTTOM LINE: Debt taken to achieve a goal or out of convenience can be useful as long as you have a plan for paying it off. To avoid desperation debt, build an emergency fund. A 2016 report from public policy think tank Urban Institute found that savings as small as \$250 can help consum-

ers avoid missed bills and even eviction.

IS YOUR DEBT AFFORDABLE?

Comparing your debt load with your gross income can be a helpful tool for seeing if it's manageable or becoming too large to tackle on your own. Leaving aside mortgages and student loans, since they're generally more manageable forms of debt, here are some guidelines to consider:

DEBT LOAD UP TO 15% OF INCOME: This amount is likely affordable but is worth addressing. If you're carrying a moderate credit card balance, for example, paying it off can free up cash

and save on interest.

DEBT LOAD FROM 16% TO 39% OF INCOME: Debts in this range get increasingly difficult to pay off. You may be able to make them more affordable by reducing interest or payments, such as with a balance transfer credit card or a personal loan. If you can't qualify for one of those, you could explore a debt management plan with a non-profit credit counselor.

DEBT LOAD OF 40% OR MORE OF INCOME: Debt loads this high can be insurmountable. Use the free consultations offered by many nonprofit credit counselors and bankruptcy attorneys to see if debt relief might be right for you.

BOTTOM LINE: Know how your debt compares with your income and use that perspective to understand which approach is the most logical.

HOW IS YOUR DEBT AFFECTING YOUR LIFE?

Think about how debt is impacting your life overall, says Thomas Nitzsche, media manager at nonprofit credit counseling agency Money Management International. "If your debt is something that is hanging over your head and you're worrying about it constantly, that's something you should address," he says. Any debt that affects your mental health or significantly diminishes your quality of life is a bad debt. □

World stocks rise as ECB signals more stimulus coming

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) —

World stocks turned higher Tuesday after the European Central Bank signaled it could cut interest rates or provide other forms of monetary stimulus to help the economy.

The ECB, which sets interest rates for the 19 countries that use the euro, hinted it could cut rates in coming months and has asked its staff to study a possible new round of bond purchases, which add newly created money into the economy.



A currency trader watches monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Associated Press

Stocks rose on the news while the euro dropped, as looser monetary policy tends to cheap-

en a currency.

In signaling more stimulus, the ECB joins the U.S. Federal Reserve and other cen-

tral banks around the world in trying to help growth through a period of uncertainties, including over trade disputes the U.S. is waging with several coun-

tries, particularly China.

Germany's DAX rose 0.4% to 12,577 while France's CAC 40 gained 1% to 5,660. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.4% at 7,530. □

QUALITY APARTMENTS AND SUITES

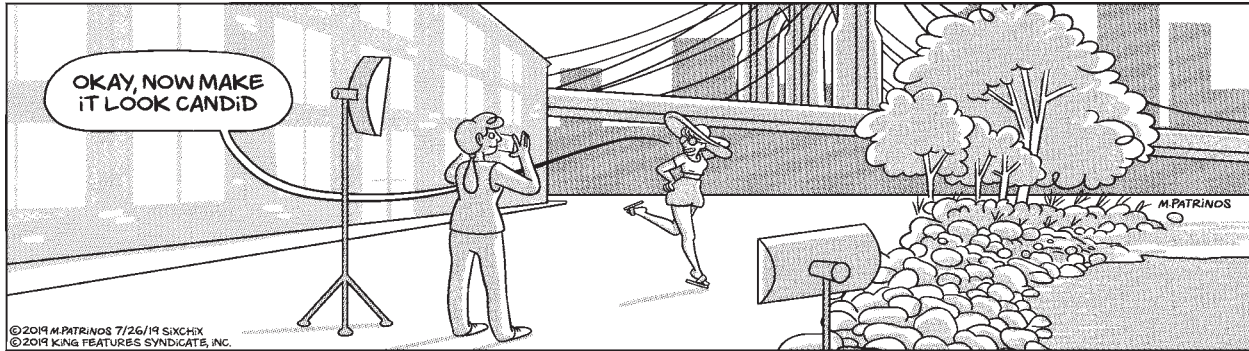
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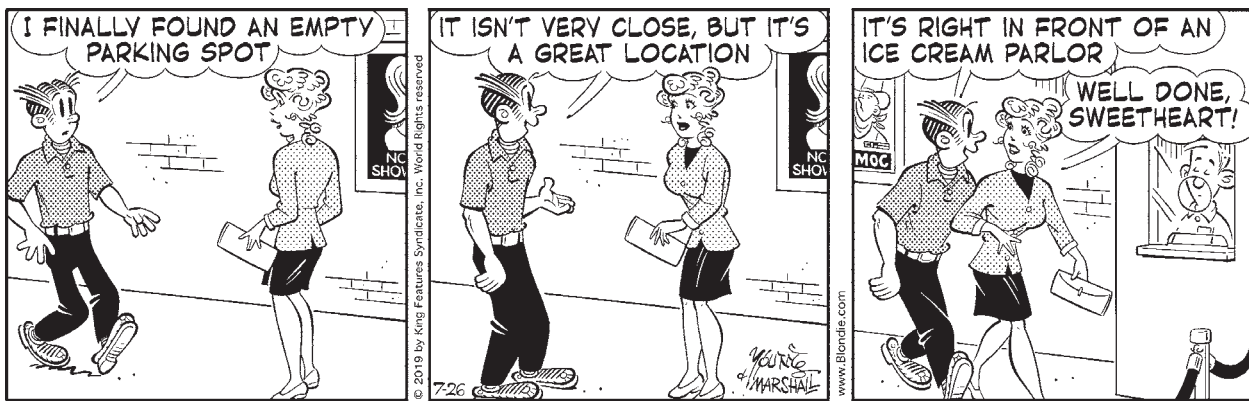
Mutts



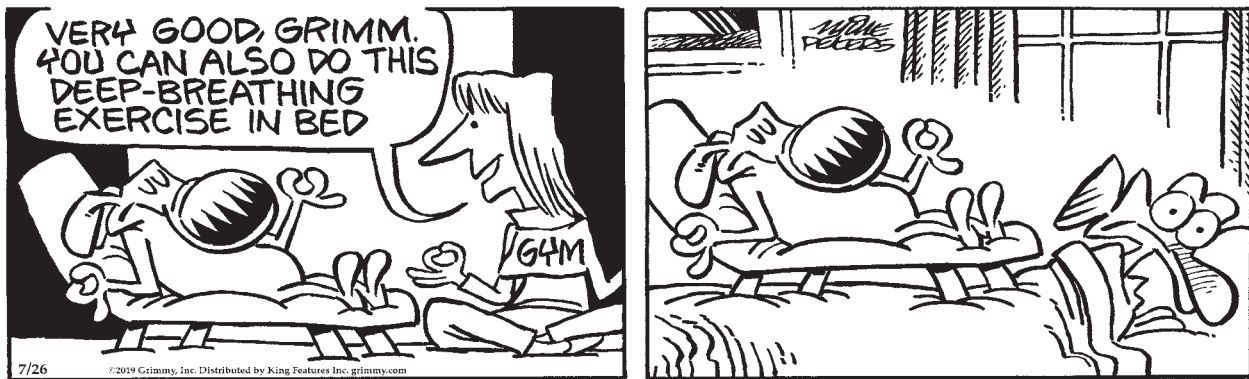
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6		5			7			1
	1			2			5	
				6				3
3		2						
	4						8	
					9			5
2			9					
	6			1			2	
5			3			7		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

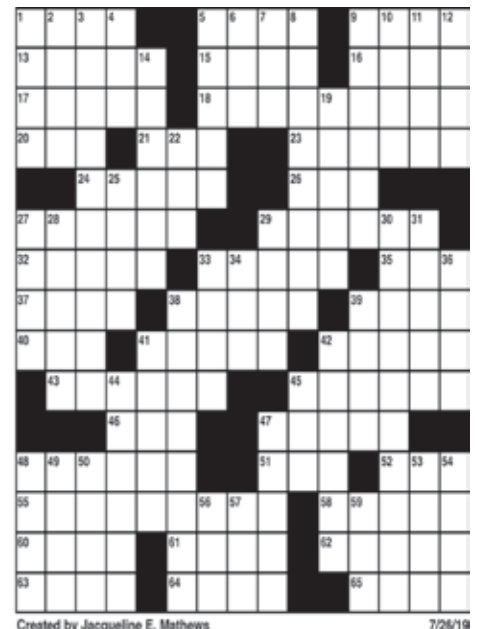
7/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	2	6	3	5	7	4	1	8
1	3	5	8	9	4	6	2	7
8	4	7	6	2	1	9	5	3
7	8	1	9	4	5	3	6	2
4	5	3	2	8	6	7	9	1
6	9	2	7	1	3	8	4	5
2	6	8	5	3	9	1	7	4
5	7	4	1	6	8	2	3	9
3	1	9	4	7	2	5	8	6

ACROSS

- 1 Aria
5 Acknowledges
9 Shine
13 the boys
15 Frontal ___; part of the brain
16 "___ Me Do"; Beatles song
17 Movie star
18 Lessened
20 Kind of rock
21 Corrida cry
23 Parents & grandparents
24 Introvert
26 Anti's vote
27 So-called
29 Arranges
32 Endures
33 Entire
35 Wyken, Blynken & ___
37 Sci-fi fleet
38 Bananas
39 Actor Christian
40 Garnet or opal
41 ___ away; subtracts
42 Hell's ruler
43 Lose weight
45 Lyrical writing
46 Buck
47 Actor Tony
48 Summer Olympics sport
51 Nation with the most airports: abbr.
52 Life-saving technique, for short
55 Capable of being prevented
58 Lake near Reno
60 Actress Carter
61 Without slack
62 Make corrections to
63 Low joint
64 Quiche base
65 "Beware the ___ of March!"
- DOWN
1 Ivory or Lux
2 Infrequent
3 Causing annoyance



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/26/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ABS	SLITS	STAB
RATS	HASIT	COLE
GROW	EDEMA	RUSE
SPINELESS	IRON	
FETE	HAM	
SMITES	FLIPPANT	
WORLD	TAINT	MIA
ADAY	SWUNG	POET
MET	ATILT	DANCE
PLEASANT	LEDGER	
MAR	GOAD	
HALE	TYRANNIZE	
OVEN	LEASE	NEAT
BIND	EAGER	GUSH
ODDS	DRESS	STY

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7/26/19

39 Singer Joan

41 Adjusted a grand

42 Hyundai sedan

44 Submissive

45 Dance bit

47 Songs for two

48 Didn't float

49 Hotpoint appliance

50 Composer ___

Porter

53 Southern corn

bread

54 Ohio nine

56 Paper sack

57 Drag

59 Bordeaux buddy



In this July 5, 2019, photo, Saraswati Dangol feeds monkeys in the forest near Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Associated Press

Nepal woman spends her day feeding temple monkeys

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)

— In the forests of Nepal's capital Kathmandu near the revered Hindu temple of Pashupatinath, some 300 monkeys eagerly await their pieces of roti, or flat bread. For the past four years, Saraswati Dangol has been bringing the bread every day to feed the monkeys. She buys some 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of flour and spends hours cooking the roti, traveling to the forest temple and feeding them. Thousands of monkeys live around the temple and about 300 of them come for Dangol's roti.

As soon as they see her with her white sack, they gather around her, some patiently waiting for their turn while others less patiently snatching the bread from her hands.

"It used to be that the monkeys were able to feed on

the fruits from the trees but now the forests are thin and hardly any fruit," she said.

"They are going hungry and some of them even go to nearby houses to steal food," she said, adding that the monkeys are injured by people whose homes they try to enter.

Lately the monkeys from Pashupati have been wandering farther away from the temple and forest area in search of food. Many of Dangol's regulars are elderly, or mother or baby monkeys that are unable to fight for their share of food in the wild. Dangol rarely misses a day at the temple, but when she does, she struggles not to worry about the monkeys. "When I miss a single day, I feel like I have not fed my kids and I become depressed," she said. The temple is revered by Hindus and draws pilgrims come from all over the world. □

Classifieds



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$27k
Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDROOM \$26k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$8000
1 Bed \$4000
1B Oceanfront \$7000

PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$16000
2B Oceanfront \$24k
1B OV \$10k

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Europe melts under Sahara heat wave, smashes heat records

By **ANGELA CHARLTON** and **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Even ice cream, Italian gelato or Popsicles couldn't help this time.

Temperature records that had stood for decades or even just hours fell minute by minute Thursday afternoon and Europeans and tourists alike jumped into fountains, lakes, rivers or the sea to escape a suffocating heat wave rising up from the Sahara.

On a day that no one on the continent will ever forget, two potential drug dealers in Belgium even called the police, begging to be rescued from the locked container they managed to get themselves trapped in.

It was nearly impossible to keep up with the falling records as temperatures climbed higher and higher under a brutal sun — in Paris and London, in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands — all places where air conditioning is not typically installed in homes, cafes or stores. Even office air conditioning systems strained under the hot, dry air that was trapped between two stormy weather systems.

Climate scientists warned these types of heat waves could become the new normal but they loom as a giant challenge for temperate Europe. As emissions keep warming the planet, scientists say there will be more and hotter heat waves, although it's too early to know whether this specific hot spell is linked to man-made climate change.

"There is likely the DNA of climate change in the record-breaking heat that Europe and other parts of the world are experiencing.



A bird sits on a straw bale on a field in Frankfurt, Germany, as the sun rises on Thursday, July 25, 2019.

And it is unfortunately going to continue to worsen," said Marshall Shepherd, professor of meteorology at University of Georgia.

Electric fans sold out across Paris — and traditional folding fans made a comeback on the city's stuffy Metro. Trains were canceled in Britain and France, with authorities in both nations urging travelers to stay home. Messages to "Hydrate yourselves!" blared from the radio and TV, and water bottles were handed out with abandon. Still, the atmosphere was buoyant, as people sought to stay cool yet embrace the moment.

Katy James, visiting Paris from Chicago, was one of the lucky ones with an air-conditioned room but she was still out in the streets, enjoying the atmosphere.

"We've had such a good time. The Parisians have been so accommodating.

We've been getting water where ever we go. We got to play in the fountain. This was amazing," James said. France's heat alert system went to its maximum level of red for the first time during last month's heat wave, when France saw its highest-ever recorded temperature of 46 degrees Celsius (114.8 degrees Fahrenheit). On Thursday, about one-fifth of French territory was under a red alert, stretching from the English Channel through the Paris region and down to Burgundy, affecting at least 20 million people.

French authorities have been particularly wary since a 2003 heat wave killed nearly 15,000 people, many of them elderly, stuck alone in stiflingly hot apartments.

"The science behind heat wave attribution is very robust — the first extreme weather event to be definitively linked to global warming was the 2003 European heat wave," said NASA climate scientist Kate Marvel. "We know that as the climate warms, heat waves become more likely and more severe."

So as tourists frolicked in fountains, authorities and volunteers in Paris and London fanned out to help the

elderly, the sick and the homeless, opening cooling centers to let people rest, recover or shower.

"They are in the street all day, under the sun. No air conditioning, no way to protect oneself from the heat," said Ruggero Gatti, an IT worker who joined other Red Cross volunteers handing out water bottles, soup and yogurt to the homeless in the Paris suburb of Boulogne.

Across the Channel, the heat damaged overhead electric wires between London's St. Pancras train station and Luton Airport, blocking all train lines. East Midlands Trains posted a message to passengers on Twitter, saying simply "DO NOT TRAVEL." The sheer levels of heat on Thursday afternoon were nothing short of astonishing:

— The Paris area hit 42.6 C (108.7 F), beating the previous record of 40.4 C (104.7 F) set in 1947.

— The Netherlands' meteorological institute announced a record that beat the previous record set just a day ago: 40.7 C (105.3 F) in the Gilze Rijen municipality near the Belgian border.

— Belgium hit all-time records twice in the day, ris-

ing to 40.7 C (105.3 F) in the western town of Beitem. "This is the highest recorded temperature for Belgium in history since the beginning of the measurements in 1833," said Alex Dewalque of the country's Royal Meteorological Institute.

— The northern German town of Lingen set a new national temperature record at least three times Thursday, finally hitting 42.6 C (108.7 F). Those repeated records came after the country had set a national record Wednesday of 40.5 C (104.9 F) in Geilenkirchen near the Belgian border.

— London recorded its hottest day on record for July, with the mercury climbing to 36.9 C (98.4 F) at Heathrow Airport. The previous July record was 36.7 C (98 F) in 2015.

— In Britain overall, temperatures hit 38.1 C (100.6 F) in southern England, which gave the country a record for the highest July temperature ever but did not beat the national record of 38.5 C (101.3 F) set in August 2003. Britain's Met Office said its temperature records go back to 1865.

— The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment issued a "smog alarm" Thursday for areas including the densely populated cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague due to high ozone levels.

In Germany, Switzerland and Austria, some communities painted vital rail tracks white in hopes that the light color would bring down the temperature a few degrees and the tracks would not get warped by the heat. German railways Deutsche Bahn said passengers who had booked tickets for Thursday or Friday and wanted to delay their trips could do so without charge.

In Cologne in western Germany, volunteers handed out free water while others sunbathed on the dried-up banks of the Rhine River. In Bavaria's prisons, inmates were getting cold cucumber soup, fruit and yoghurt for lunch and more water than normal. □



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Rapper A\$AP Rocky charged with assault over fight in Sweden

By DAVID KEYTON

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Swedish prosecutor on Thursday charged rapper A\$AP Rocky with assault over a fight in Stockholm last month, in a case that has drawn the attention of fellow recording artists as well as U.S. President Donald Trump.

Rocky, a platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated artist whose real name is Rakim Mayers, has been in custody since July 3 as authorities investigate a fight he was allegedly involved in on June 30 before appearing at a music festival.

Prosecutor Daniel Suneson said in a statement that he filed charges against the artist and two others "suspected of assault causing actual bodily harm, having come to the conclusion that the events in question constitute a crime and despite claims of self-defense and provocation."

The prosecutor has recommended that the Stockholm District Court set aside three days for the trial, which defense lawyer Slobodan Jovicic said is expected to start on Tuesday. The charges can carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

Videos published on social



This Feb. 9, 2019 file photo shows A\$AP Rocky at Pre-Grammy Gala And Salute To Industry Icons in Beverly Hills, Calif.

media appear to show a person being violently thrown onto the ground by Rocky, 30. The rapper asserts that it was self-defense.

Suneson said that he concluded otherwise after studying videos available to investigators.

"It is worth noting that I have had access to a greater amount of material than that which has previously been available on the

internet," he said. "In addition to video material, the injured party's statements have been supported by witness statements."

Suneson added that there were initially two injured parties in the case, but the allegations concerning one of them were dropped due to "insufficient supporting evidence" and the charges relate to only one alleged victim. That person has not been identified.

Associated Press

A counter-allegation was made by the artist's bodyguard against one of the alleged victims, but that case was closed earlier this week, the prosecutor said. Defense lawyer Jovicic said "Rakim Mayers feels that he acted in self-defense, he is claiming that he is innocent, and in that perspective he of course is very sad."

Sean "Diddy" Combs, Justin Bieber and Kris Jenner

are some of the celebrities who have publicly expressed support for Rocky. The artist has collaborated with Kendrick Lamar, Cardi B, Drake and Selena Gomez.

On Saturday, Trump said he spoke with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven about A\$AP Rocky and "offered to personally vouch for his bail," something that is not available under Swedish law. Urged on by the first lady and celebrities including Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West, the president had said in a Friday tweet that he would intervene to try to free Rocky. Lofven's press secretary, Toni Eriksson, later said that the two leaders had a "friendly and respectful" conversation in which Lofven "made certain to emphasize the complete independence of the Swedish judicial system, prosecutors and courts" and stressed that the government cannot and will not attempt to influence the legal proceedings.

"There's been a lot of support from a lot of different people, and Rakim Mayers is of course very thankful for everybody that has reached out," Jovicic said. He added that "it's been a very hard time for him." □

Air-board inventor makes it more than halfway across Channel

By JEFFREY SCHAEFFER

Associated Press

SANGATTE, France (AP) —

Looking like a superhero, the French inventor of an airborne hoverboard glided partway over the English Channel on his personal flying machine then crashed in the sea Thursday.

Unharmful and under-estimated, 40-year-old Franky Zapata said he plans to try again.

Perhaps within days.

The inventor collided with a refueling boat just a few hours into his flight, destroying his transportation, a homemade version of the Flyboard his company sells commercially.

After being rescued from the Channel's choppy waters, Zapata smiled and



Franky Zapata, a 40-year-old inventor, takes to the air in Sangatte, Northern France, at the start of his attempt to cross the channel from France to England Thursday July 25, 2019.

Associated Press

said, "We won't give up until we succeed."

Zapata took off to cross the Channel from the French coastal town of Sangatte. From afar, it looked like he

was skateboarding on the sky.

He hoped to travel 36 kilometers (22.4 miles) to the Dover area in southeast England. Propelled by a

power pack full of kerosene, he planned to refuel from a boat partway across.

"I felt really great. It's just fantastic," Zapata told reporters later of the experience. "I was flying. It was like a dream."

Reaching speeds up to 177 kilometers per hour (110 mph), he traveled some 20 kilometers (12 miles), more than halfway to the English shore. That's farther than he had ever traveled on his air-board.

But as he descended for a refueling stop on a boat, the platform he was meant to land on was moving too much from waves. He wasn't able to grab onto it, and he plunged into the sea.

Zapata winced as he described the "disaster." He said his helmet filled with water and he struggled for breath. But he came away from the rescue by French divers with just a scratch on his arm.

Zapata wowed crowds in Paris on Bastille Day, whirling over European leaders on his flying hoverboard. But crossing the windy, ship-filled Channel was a much bigger challenge.

He scheduled Thursday's flight to coincide with the 110th anniversary of the first flight across the Channel, by French aviator Louis Bleriot on July 25, 1909 — who also left from Sangatte. The beach where Zapata took off Thursday bears Bleriot's name. □

'The Great Hack' explores the dark side of big data

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

Associated Press

Thinking about finally getting off of Facebook? "The Great Hack," a new documentary on Netflix, might just be the push you were looking for. At the very least, you'll probably never take another online personality test. It's meant to scare and influence you, and probably even for good reason — although it is a little ironic that the

entire film is about how our personal data is being manipulated and turned into fearmongering tactics.

Directed by Karim Amer and Jehane Noujaim, "The Great Hack" dives into the Cambridge Analytica scandal and why it matters. By relying mostly on news reports, many by journalist Carole Cadwaladr, and public testimony, the film might not be all that revelatory for anyone



This image released by Netflix shows David Carroll, associate professor at Parsons School of Design, in a scene from "The Great Hack."

Associated Press

who followed the story and watched Mark Zuckerberg's congressional testimony, however.

But you do get to spend a significant time with the former Cambridge Analytica insider-turned-whistleblower Brittany Kaiser, a young woman who was central in drawing up contracts with the Trump campaign and the right hand to the charismatic CEO Alexander Nix. She has since decided that she wants to regain a moral compass and speak to authorities — and

this documentary crew — about what she knows and how her old colleagues are lying about their involvement in Brexit and other elections and what they've done with all the data they claimed to have deleted.

"The Great Hack" starts out with so much promise as David Carroll, an associate professor at Parsons, starts to question where all this data that we all very willingly share is going. The narration is a little sentimental and dreamy.

Anyone with a pulse and an

internet connection knows that of course every click, every search and every purchase is being stored, saved, sold and commoditized for companies who want to sell you more, and better. But he is the one who wondered how a U.K. data company had somehow gained enough information to brag that it had 5,000 data points on every U.S. voter and could "predict the personality of every person in the United States" and then actually did something about it. He asked if he could see his voter profile. When Cambridge Analytica declined, it became a red alarm.

"The Great Hack" will help connect the dots between these names that many may only be passively aware of. It's meant to alarm the public about how our data, our purchases, our likes and the "fun personality quizzes" we take are part of a digital footprint that tech companies are profiting off of and using to manipulate us. □

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CATS
PH MON-THU 4:20 | 6:25 | 8:30
FRI 4:20 | 6:25 | 8:30 | 10:35
SAT 2:15 | 4:20 | 6:25 | 8:30 | 10:35
SUN 2:15 | 4:20 | 6:25 | 8:30
PBP MON-SUN 1:00 | 3:00 | 5:00 | 7:00 | 9:00

DONALD GLOVER | BEYONCÉ KNOWLES-CARTER
THE LION KING
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
PH MON-THU 5:50 | 8:30
FRI 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SAT 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30
PH MON-THU 5:00 | 7:40
FRI 5:00 | 7:40 | 10:20
SAT 2:20 | 5:00 | 7:40 | 10:20
SUN 2:20 | 5:00 | 7:40
CXC PBP MON-THU & SUN 2:10 | 4:45 | 7:20
FRI-SAT 2:10 | 4:45 | 7:20 | 10:00
PBP MON-SUN 1:15 | 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:00
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FRI-SAT 2:50 | 5:25 | 8:00 | 10:35

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STUBER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
PH MON-THU 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:20
FRI 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:20 | 11:30
SAT 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:20 | 11:30
SUN 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:20

TOM HOLLAND | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
SPIDER-MAN Far From Home
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40
PBP MON-SUN 12:55 | 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

KAYA SCODELARIO | BARRY PEPPER
CRAWL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
PBP MON-THU & SUN 1:05 | 3:10 | 5:15 | 7:20 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 1:05 | 3:10 | 5:15 | 7:20 | 9:25 | 11:30

VERA FARMIGA | PATRICK WILSON
ANNABELLE COMES HOME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
PH MON-SUN 7:05 | 9:35

TOM HANKS | TIM ALLEN
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Nina Stibbe takes readers on coming-of-age journey

By **LINCÉE RAY**

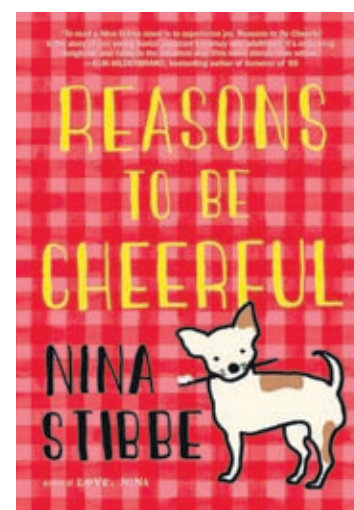
Associated Press

"Reasons to Be Cheerful" (Little Brown and Co.), by Nina Stibbe

For some people, life begins when you turn 18. Whether you choose to leave the nest, or you're kicked out, it's a time when you're expected to experience the world. In "Reasons to Be Cheerful," author Nina Stibbe offers an intimate look at this uncertain time as the protagonist becomes a young adult.

In this story, Lizzie Vogel ignores the part of an advertisement that asks for a "mature lady" and applies for a job working in a local dentist's office. She doesn't feel the need to mention that she doesn't have any knowledge of dentistry. (Lizzie is a quick learner.) Plus, the position includes an apartment above the practice.

The dentist is gruff and firm.



This cover image released by Little, Brown and Company shows "Reasons To Be Cheerful," by Nina Stibbe.

Associated Press

He insists that Lizzie's hyper co-worker Tammy holds his cigarettes so his fingers don't smell like nicotine. While Tammy and her boss' odd relationship provide daily entertainment for Lizzie, she also manages to learn a few light dentistry skills. When she's not assisting in the surgery room,

or answering the phones, Lizzie watches for Andy Nicoletto. Andy is peculiar, but Lizzie doesn't mind. She develops a friendship with him and as the months pass, she falls head over heels for him. She's not sure if Andy notices, but he sure hangs around a lot for someone who may not be interested. At times, she considers herself Andy's girlfriend. In other instances, she's mystified about their status.

Along with navigating through teen romance, Lizzie learns to maneuver other milestones that are part of becoming an adult. She learns to drive, hosts her first dinner party and takes her first step into maturity when challenges arise.

Stibbe proves she can channel the mind of a young woman and takes the reader on a coming-of-age journey that plucks at the heartstrings of every emotion. □

Weight loss among fat-acceptance influencers a fraught topic

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fashion and lifestyle blogger Maui Bigelow has always been curvy and built a social media presence by embracing every pound.

Until the worst happened. At nearly 380 pounds, her health took a dive. She was diagnosed with a blood cancer and multiple uterine fibroids that couldn't be treated due to her weight. That's when she decided to have bariatric surgery, a weight loss procedure.

She hadn't yearned to be thinner, but she wanted to live at least long enough for her two children, ages 20 and 16, to make her a grandmother.

"For months I talked to my counselor about how I would share my truth with you," Bigelow told her followers at Phatgirlfresh.com after the weight loss surgery last year. "I was concerned about how you would receive it. I feared the plus-size and body positive communities wouldn't understand or respect my choice."

Bigelow, a former teacher in Albany, Georgia, with 67,500 monthly unique visitors to her site and nearly 40,000 followers on Instagram, was pleased her fans were resoundingly positive. That's not a small thing in her corner of the internet. Fat-acceptance and body positive influencers like Bigelow are on the rise on social media and as fashion models as they fight back against the damaging pressures of idealized beauty peddled online and off. But what hap-



This undated image released by Howell Designs Studio, LLC shows fashion and lifestyle blogger Maui Bigelow.

pens when, as in Bigelow's case, weight poses a serious health risk, or they decide to shed pounds for other reasons, turning their careers and social channels from fat acceptance to smaller sizes, dieting and fitness?

"The people who are having weight loss surgery in our community, they have the surgery, they go about their business and they shut up, for the most part. But it's important to share. There are women who are struggling with health issues who need this surgery," Bigelow said in an interview.

She's down to 240 pounds, but she's struggling to fully accept her future of fewer pounds, both personally and professionally.

"I was a bomb ass girl at almost 400 pounds," Bigelow

said. "Some of these influencers, they talk about being fat and how they love their plus-size bodies and how they're so empowered in the space that they're in, and they have all of these women who support them, who are cheering them on. Then fast forward, they lose the weight and you see the before and after pictures: Oh, this is when I was 350 pounds. I was so depressed. I felt so ugly. And this is me now. I'm so happy. I'm so free. Wait a minute, girl. Didn't you say two years ago when you were 350 pounds that you loved your body and that you loved the size that you were? Me, I came into womanhood as a fat woman. I'm not as confident as I was."

Pia Schiavo-Campo, who posts from Los Angeles

about style and culture on Instagram and blogs at Mixedfatchick.com, isn't a fan of dieting, before-and-after pictures or the lack of dialogue from fat-acceptance influencers about weight loss. As someone who has struggled with an eating disorder for the better part of 30 years, she's triggered by diet talk and conflicted about weight turnarounds, especially those not directly addressed.

It's the messaging, she said in an interview, especially when dieting or weight loss surgery transforms the online mission through photos and new collaborations focused on health and weight-loss products.

Schiavo-Campo's concerns are echoed by others in the anti-diet movement.

"Diet culture," she says, has been "basically imposed on us, mostly women. By the same token, I also believe that people should do what's best for their bodies." JennyLee Molina in Miami did what's best for her body by losing 80 pounds in a year, trimming down to a size 8 after being told she was pre-diabetic. She did it without surgery, and lost one of her heroes, body-positive model Tess Holliday, in the process, after documenting her health and weight-loss journey on Instagram, where she has 11,900 followers.

Molina's feed includes before-and-after photos. She said she sought out Holliday through private messaging after realizing Holliday had unfollowed her.

"Your weight loss posts are too triggering for me, I'm sure you understand," Holliday explained in a private reply earlier this year. "It's not personal."

A representative for Holliday did not respond to requests for comment.

"She was a go-to for inspiration, someone I admired in terms of embracing your curves, embracing where you're at," Molina said. "The community is very divided between those who are more about fat pride, which is fine, and the ones who are all about wherever you're at, be comfortable in your own skin. That's where I feel like I am. I think everybody should embrace themselves at every step of the journey and we shouldn't shame people who decide to lose weight to feel better. There's nothing wrong with it."q

National Geographic aims to solve Amelia Earhart mystery

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

The deep-sea explorer who discovered the wrecked Titanic is tackling an aviation mystery: Amelia Earhart's disappearance.

Robert Ballard and a National Geographic expedition will search for her plane next month near a Pacific Ocean atoll that's part of the Phoenix Islands.

Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan were attempting an around-the-world flight when their aircraft disappeared in July 1937, spawning years of searches and speculation.

Ballard and his team will use remotely operated underwater vehicles in their search, the National Geographic channel said Tuesday.

An archaeological team will investigate a potential Earhart campsite with search dogs and DNA sampling.

The channel will air a two-hour special on Oct. 20. "Expedition Amelia" will include clues gathered by the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery that led Ballard to the atoll, named Nikumaroro. □



In this Jan. 13, 1935, file photo, American aviatrix Amelia Earhart climbs from the cockpit of her plane at Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

The 'King of the Commode' seeks an heir to his thrones

By **ALLEN G. BREED**

Associated Press

ALAMO HEIGHTS, Texas (AP)

— FOR SALE: One tiny kingdom, with many thrones. But it doesn't come with a hereditary title.

That belongs, in perpetuity, to Barney Smith — the undisputed "King of the Commode."

"There's a lot of me in there," he says, sitting in front of the corrugated metal garage he's dubbed his Toilet Seat Art Museum. There's a lot of, well, everything in there.

Smith has one seat decorated with a chunk of the Berlin Wall and another with a piece of insulation from the doomed Shuttle Challenger. There are lids festooned with flint arrowheads, Civil War Minie balls, Amtrak train keys, Pez dispensers — even \$1 million in shredded greenbacks from the Federal Reserve Bank in San Antonio.

Every inch of door, wall and ceiling space is covered. The sign out front — a commode lid, of course — says Smith's art is "NOT FOR SALE." But after five decades and countless offers, the king says everything must go.

"At 96, I come out here with a cane. I've gotta hold onto everything to walk," says Smith, who is bent with arthritis and struggles to swing the creaking metal doors open for visitors. "I'm beginning to feel like that I'd rather be in an air-conditioned home in a chair, looking at a good program."

Still, walking away will be



In this Wednesday, May 16, 2018, photo, retired plumber Barney Smith, 96, center, greets a visitor to his Toilet Seat Art Museum in Alamo Heights, Texas.

hard. "This is my life's history here," he says.

It started more than 50 years ago, as a way to display hunting trophies.

Smith says his father would spend hours cutting out, sanding and varnishing wooden shields to mount his antlers. The son figured a toilet seat lid would do just fine.

"Well, I'm a master plumber, retired," he says. "I thought I ought to stick with my trade."

Smith had promised his wife, Louise, that he'd stop at 500. That was 850 toilet seats ago.

"If I would have just read my Bible as many hours as I spent on my toilet seats, I'd be a better man," he says with a twinkle in his eye.

Smith's workshop is stacked floor to ceiling with cardboard boxes filled with odds and ends. He en-

graves his works with cast-off drills donated by a local dentist.

Smith readily admits that he's no Jasper Johns.

"The abstract artist would take it and he would spray a little paint over here and a little bit of paint here and say, 'This is the Alamo,'" Smith says with disgust. "I do detail."

Smith toiled in obscurity until an artist who'd come by to see some of his oil paintings caught a glimpse of his garage and told a local TV station.

"They twisted my arm so until I said to come on," Smith says.

The piece aired on a Friday. The following Monday, two other stations came calling. Then came the tourists. "And so I just slung the door open," he says.

Smith officially opened as a museum in 1992. Since

then, visitors from every state and 83 foreign countries have made their way to this little municipality completely surrounded by the city of San Antonio.

He asks that visitors make an appointment. But he doesn't turn anyone away. Smith uses his walking stick to point out his favorites. Like a lavatory seat from the airplane that carried billionaire Aristotle Onassis's body home to Greece. Or the piece of one of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's "thrones."

He regales tourists with the tale of "Old Rip," the "horny toad" who emerged alive after 31 years entombed in the courthouse cornerstone in his hometown of Eastland, Texas. He also treats each to a recitation of "When Earth's Last Picture is Painted" — a Rudyard Kipling poem he was

assigned to learn in fifth grade. No one leaves without signing his guestbook — and a toilet seat.

Smith is currently working on a seat commemorating the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. He suspects that will be his last.

In 2014, he lost Louise, his wife of 74 years. A few months ago, he fell and broke two ribs.

Daughter Julia Murders says they've had offers. A man from India, who wanted to buy the collection for his daughter, offered \$20,000 — about \$15 per seat.

"We discussed it and we said, 'Daddy, you know, you've been doing this your whole life. The last few years of your life, you've done nothing BUT this,'" says Murders, 69, who lives nearby.

People have told Smith that he's sitting on a pot of gold. But Smith isn't looking to cash in.

"I want all 1,350 to be intact in another museum somewhere," he says. "It's not the highest bidder. It's not being raffled off."

Austin writer and publisher Daedalus Hoffman says Smith and his collection are priceless. And he wants to help preserve that legacy. His Cattywampus Press raised more than \$30,000 to produce a full-color, cloth-bound book about Smith. "King of the Commode: Barney Smith & His Toilet Seat Art Museum" is being released Saturday, just in time for Smith's 97th birthday.

Hoffman hopes the book will help Smith attract a suitable buyer. If nothing else, he wanted to at least "document this piece of Americana."

"For me, Barney's story is about the innate human desire to create and communicate," Hoffman says. "He is a folk artist. And his story and his life work merits preservation."

Smith would love for the collection to remain where it is. But if it must move to remain intact, so be it.

"I'm ready to give it up and let it go to London," he says.

The Louvre, perhaps? □



In this Wednesday, May 16, 2018, photo, retired plumber Barney Smith, 96, walks through his Toilet Seat Art Museum in Alamo Heights, Texas.

Associated Press



In this Wednesday, May 16, 2018, photo, a visitor looks at some of the more than 1,350 decorated commode lids at Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Museum in Alamo Heights, Texas.

Associated Press